

FACTSHEET FIVE

MIKE GUNDERLOY
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Medford, MA 02155

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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FACTSHEET FIVE is published four times a year, appearing in the mails during the first week of February, May, August and November. Subscriptions are available at \$2.00 (cash, check, MO) or \$1.76 (mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 4 issues in advance. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US, First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at \$2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for \$5.00 per issue.

Deadlines for FACTSHEET FIVE are the 20th of January, April, July and October.

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available at the following rates:

	Unreduced	To be reduced	Price
Full Page	4 1/2" x 8"	7" x 12 1/2"	\$25
Half Page	4 1/2" x 4"	7" x 6 1/4"	\$15
Quarter Page	2 1/4" x 4"	3 1/2" x 6 1/4"	\$10
Business Card	2 1/4" x 2"	3 1/2" x 3"	\$ 5

The first column shows width by height for ads to be run exactly as is, the second column shows width by height for ads to be reduced to 64% along with the rest of the publication. Exchange ads may be arranged with other publications.

FACTSHEET FIVE

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, resident at 41 Lawrence St., Medford, MA 02155; phone (617)-391-3496. This is Pretzel Press publication #678, and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 800 copies. 17th issue.

Now, pay attention, because I'm going to explain the mailing code. That's the stuff on the far right hand side of the first line of your address label. If it's time to renew, I should have rubber-stamped a warning next to the label, but take a moment and check, just in case.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "17", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "17" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, you bought a lifetime sub, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell ten copies or so and want to split the proceeds.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 1 issue for a single, 2 for a tape, or 3 for an LP, but I screw up a lot, so let me know if you're owed more.

"P" means you're a prisoner. FACTSHEET FIVE is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"T" means we're trading zines, all-for-all -- that means if you publish a monthly I expect 3 for each FF I send you, and so on. "T?" means that I'd really like you to consider trading with me.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/17") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF.

And remember, FF is sent BULK MAIL. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not TOO slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So PLEASE get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues.

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: \$2.00 (cash, check, money order) or \$1.76 (stamps -- that's 8 First Class stamps) per issue for a regular sub. Those in the US can subscribe for \$2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Those in Europe can get Airmail delivery for \$5 per issue. Any of these rates are good for up to 4 issues in advance, protecting you from price rises for a full year. Send money for more than 4 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class subscription!)

If anyone wants to buy a lifetime subscription (lifetime of the magazine, that is), I'll sell you one for \$50. Or make me a reasonable offer of trade or barter.

Thanks to Donna Young, Katlady, and J.C. Brainbeau for their generous donations towards publishing this issue.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do NOT accept used postage stamps in payment!

I'm no longer offering a discount for your first copy. Sorry about that.

If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and \$2. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, or negotiable securities.

Thanks to John Bridgman for sending more stuff to review than I can shake a stick at. Also thanks to Tracy Harms, Bob Black, Timothy Fletcher, Mykel Board, Matt Love, Truce Quistarc and Dave Szurek for material donations.

What won't work is sending too little money, non-credible threats, or just begging. Sorry, them's the breaks.

See you all again in February. Enjoy whatever holidays you can get away with.



CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- * FULL DISCLOSURE still has the same mailing address, but their new office is at 334 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104.
- * THE LOG CABIN is now being put out by Louisa Poulin, Siler Rt., Box 394, Winchester, VA 22601.
- * MOSCOW GRAFFITI MAGAZINE is now at PO Box 20722, New York, NY 10009.
- * OUT-OF-KONTROL DATA KORPORATION has moved to PO Box 432, Boston, MA 02258; this is the address for FALSE POSITIVE and for ordering copies of Bob Black's brilliant booklet THE ABOLITION OF WORK (see FF16).
- * RIDING THE BLINDS now comes from Richard Lopez, 1424 N. Concord Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454.
- * SMILE magazine and Karen Eliot now c/o 11 Bromwich House, Howson Terrace, Richmond Hill, Richmond Upon Thames, Surrey TW10 6RU ENGLAND.
- * TACTICS OF THE MLL has moved to Long Beach, under the editorship of Sandy McIntosh. More news when I get an issue.
- * THEATRE OF ICE now issues their horror rock from PO Box 2262, Provo, UT 84603-2262.

LOST ADDRESSES:

If anyone knows where any of these folks went, I'd like to hear about it:

- * AMETHYST RECORDS
- * DISTURBING RECORDS
- * MINISTRY OF TRUTH (the fanzine, not the group)
- * REMEMBER THAT SONG

OTHER NEWS:

- * I enjoyed the format experiment last time of trying to review every issue of every mag sent me. Unfortunately, I can't afford to keep it up, so it's back to the most recent issue reviews this time. Sorry about that.
- * FACTSHEET FIVE is now being sent to Tidsskriftcentret in Denmark, who are performing a valuable service for the left worldwide. They collect and keep track of better than 600 progressive and grassroots periodicals worldwide, and make them available to researchers. I'm happy to be archived by them. For more information, send a couple of IRCs to TIDSSKRIFTCENTRET, Longangstraede 37 C, 1 sal., 1468 Copenhagen K, DENMARK.

* If anyone knows where to find INCOGNITO pfanzine (Larry Grogan, ed.), tell them I would have given them a good review if they'd bothered to put an address on the zine!

ATTENTION PUBLISHERS AND BANDS: Please be sure to put an address and a price directly on anything you send for review. Envelopes often get seperated from their contents. Even seperate notes aren't safe unless you staple them on.

* REALITIES magazine has ceased publication. See the BOOKS section for an announcement of their new project.

* For \$23 the Continental Association of Satan's Hope will send you all sorts of forbidden arcane stuff & put you on their mailing list. I haven't a clue as to what this really gets you, but: PO Box 353, Victoria Stn., Montreal H3Z 2V8 CANADA.

* New Jersey A. C. T. runs a series of seminars for taxpayers discussing the legal requirements behind the income tax. For more information, send them an SASE at 310 Evesham Rd., Glendora, NJ 08029.

* Jay Kennedy (779 Union St., Brooklyn, NY 11215) is working on the next edition of THE DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE COMIC BOOKS. Comix publishers should contact him directly to ensure that their comics are included.

* LEVEL 8, next issue of one of the biggest and best MANS, is being put together June 30, 1985. For more information contact LEVEL WORLD HEADQUARTERS, PO Box 50164, Indianapolis, IN 46256.

* Rabbit Suit Productions announces a couple of Mail Arts shows with deadlines in February and March; more info from PO Box 33127, Baltimore, MD 21218.

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1986 is the 100th anniversary of the Haymarket Bombings in Chicago, and an anarchist Memorial Gathering and other events are being planned. For more information, contact Impossible Books, 1200 W. Fullerton Box 102, Chicago.

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THIS...



- John E

IL 60614. For those of you planning to attend, keep an eye out for me. If I can swing it, I'll be there -- and if the May issue of FF is late, that's why.

.....

GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing for zines:

- * If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine only takes cash, or postal MOs, I try to indicate this in the address listing.
- * On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the editors didn't write anything down.
- * On zines with a price under a buck, it really helps to include a couple of stamps to cover postage.
- * Canadians generally don't mind receiving US funds, but for overseas zines you should consider buying IRCs at your local post office instead of sending cash. Foreign currency money orders are available, but they can take 6 weeks to get to you.
- * I'd appreciate it if you mentioned FACTSHEET FIVE when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.
- * If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers about complaints of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.
- * If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys hearing comments on the zine he's sent you. This is especially true if you DIDN'T like it: we'd all like to improve.

Back issues of FACTSHEET FIVE are available as follows:

#1, 2, 3, 4	\$1 each
#6, 9, 12, 14	\$2 each
#5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16	\$3 each
Complete set	\$30

The first four issues are ditto-printed and much smaller than those to follow. The remaining issues are either the original printing (\$2 issues) or xerox copies (\$3 issue), which look the same but cost me substantially more to make.

LAST MINUTE IMPORTANT NEWS

- * Last time I listed APA-EROS, the new apa devoted to sex and related topics, but I got the price wrong. It's \$2 CASH or sample for SASE from Sylvia Carlson c/o Correspan, PO Box 759, Veneta, OR 97487.
- * Well, it finally happened. I have more pages than I can afford to print -- so I cut some art, all the letters, the WHY PUBLISH section and some other odds and ends. If you want a copy of the missing pages send me a dollar. If you want to make sure this doesn't happen again, send me \$40 to help out on printing #18. Also, this means I'm not taking any new exchange ads, only paid ads. Sorry about that, folks.

**IN THIS WORLD WHETHER IT WAS CREATED BY
GOD OR MR. NOTHING EACH ONE'S EXISTENCE IS A
TRAGEDY IF THE GRAVE IS THE END.**

**If your belief is that you live on in your offspring how
about those of us who never had children? As with
many of us your life may have been a living hell but
reliving it as compared to dying would be most
people's choice. Seventy million years is a small
part of eternity but it's still a million times longer
than three score and ten. For an arithmetically and
spiritually sound religion that's been around since
Christ knows when send a S.A.S.E. to:**

HEREBEFORE

Box 2243 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, 44504

**"LET'S START ANEW" —
REAGAN.**

**I thought he'd never make the
break with winnerless wars,
inflationary fixed wages,
unnecessary unemployment
and death**

**(NO HERENOW RERUNS)
but now he's committed.**

**For the only new program that's
come along since Christ knows
when send a S.A.S.E. to:**

NEW CONCEPTS

Box 2243

YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

GLOSSARY

Anarchist: One who believes that we would all be better off without government. Most anarchists know what the ideal true anarchist society would look like in detail. They all disagree about it.

APA: Amateur Press Association. A magazine jointly written by the subscribers. Generally each subscriber (or "member") is responsible for printing his own pages and mailing them to a central point, whence he gets copies of everyone else's pages. Something like a cocktail party in print.

Chapbook: A pamphlet of poetry or prose from a small publisher.

Church of the SubGenius: A manic faith based on the teachings of the late J.R. "Bob" Dobbs, super-salesman, and dedicated to helping people reclaim the Slack that has been stolen from them. More details for \$1 from PO Box 140306, Dallas, TX 75214.

Constitutionalist: People generally of a conservative bent who feel that the government in this country is trampling wholesale over individual rights by ignoring the letter and spirit of the Constitution. Major areas of concern often include the IRS and novel strategies for legal defense.

Discordian: A believer in the idea that God is a crazy woman. As evidence the Discordian points to all the chaos in the world. May be a religion disguised as a joke or vice versa. See Shea & Wilson's ILLUMINATUS! trilogy for more details. Also called Erisians.

FACTSHEET FIVE: Title of a short story by John Brunner.

Fan: Normally short for "science fiction fan". Fen are people who like to hang around with people who like to hang around with people...who read SF. Many are active in publishing something. Many remain aloof from the rest of the small press world and dream of writing professionally some day.

Fanzine: Anything published on a non-commercial scale. Often shorted to simply Zine.

Fen: The plural of fan.

Loc: Letter of Comment on a fanzine.

Mail-Art Network (MAN): Similar to an apa but usually involving more artwork, less words, and a greater variety of media. Mail art comes in everything from music to slides, but is concentrated in drawings and collages. With no history, no memory and no hierarchy. Mail Art started as a supremely democratic medium, but it seems to be developing professionals and losing its roots as time goes on.

Minicomic: Like a comic book but much smaller and usually printed in black and white instead of color. Typical size is about 3" by 4".

Neopagan: Member of any number of loosely related religions that are involved in nature- or Goddess-research, or in the resurrection of old gods. Bonded together by a search for alternatives to established, hierarchal religions. Often pantheistic or polytheistic. Sometimes called Pagans.

Networking: What you're doing when you read FACTSHEET FIVE and then write to someone listed here. Trendy synonym for "communication".

OE: Official Editor. The person who coordinates the activities of an apa. Sometimes called a CM, for Central Mailer.

Pfanzine: A fanzine dealing with music of any type, derived from the words "punk fanzine". The silent "p" serves to distinguish them from sfanzines. The fastest-growing part of zinedom.

Posterist: A producer of single-page posters, usually illustrating some obscure political or social point or designed to confuse the normal people. Various posterists use MANs, telephone poles, or direct mailing to distribute their works. Propaganda by the masses.

RPG: Role-playing game. Dungeons & Dragons is the most notorious example, but there are lots of others.

SASE: Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. Should be legal sized with 22 cents postage unless otherwise specified.

Sfanzine: A fanzine dealing with science fiction, or at least produced by a fan. The silent "s" is to distinguish them from pfanzines. Traditionally sfanzines are more important than eating or sleeping to the "fanzine fans".

Situationism: Theory of the now-defunct Situationist International, the avant-garde turned mean. The Sits lambasted the "society of the spectacle", indicting the system and its spurious oppositions for organizing experiences and fragmenting reality. Economically they were for workers councils, politically they rejected everyone else, especially radicals, as betrayers of liberatory ideals. And they used too many big words in their writings.

The Usual: Traditional method of obtaining sfanzines without sullyng oneself with cash. Generally includes trading other zines, writing locs, contributing articles or art, or being recipient of a whim.

Von: From Voluntary and Not Vulnerable. A method of obtaining individual liberty by escaping from society into the wilderness and only coming back for cheeseburgers and other necessary supplies. More preached than practiced.

ZINES

AANN BULLETIN #20 (\$2.50 from PO Box 915, Stn. F. Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9 CANADA): This is a digest published by the Anti-Authoritarian News Network, consisting of articles from sources around the world, plus original articles (an innovation for this issue). AANN has been growing rapidly, and this one has reprints from over 45 sources: animal rights news, anti-military actions, South Africa, Big Mountain, Wimmin's Fire Brigade, lots more. A good cross-section of the pulse of North American radicalism.

AGGRESSION #4 (99 cents from Jason Crowley, 305 Brook St., Providence, RI 02906): A pfanzine devoted mainly to interviews of passing bands. This issue: Youth Brigade, Neon Christ, PTL Club, Upright Citizens. Also some live and recorded music reviews. A couple of nifty photos help dress this one up a bit.

ALARUMS & EXCURSIONS #125 (\$1.50 + 69 cents postage from Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90066): This RPG APA has become one of the respected forces in the field. Once devoted entirely to Dungeons and Dragons, the 150 pages each month are now filled with hints and ideas for RPGers who like everything from Superhero games to SF-based games to the descendents of the original D&D. Along with the discussion of games and gaming systems, there is much contention and information on actual medieval technology, theoretical magic, climatology and other fields of interest. May be baffling to the new reader, but anyone familiar with the idea of an RPG will pick up what's going on pretty quickly.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION Dec. 1985 (\$2 from EV Consultants, Inc., 327 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025): I think AET is my favorite technology newsletter, probably because it's high on information and low on bullshit. It concentrates on various new technologies for moving stuff around: new batteries, solar power, natural gas, hydrogen and more esoteric stuff. There's plenty of research notes and news on companies actually trying to manufacture electric cars and the like -- who's got a new one out, who's gone belly-up, and so on.

ALTERNATIVE PRESS Vol. 1 #6 (\$10/yr from PO Box 1141, Aurora, OH 44202): This is certainly a BIG music tabloid -- about three feet square, in fact. With 22 pages that size and typesetting, they can get in a hell of a lot of information, and they do. Tons of interviews, show reports, record reviews, columns on fanzines, industrial music, heavy metal...The entire effect is sort of overwhelming. The music runs from Dead Kennedys to Nick Cave to Red Hot Chili Peppers to X, so I'm sure there's something for you.

AMBASSADOR REPORT Oct. 1985 (Donation from PO Box 60068, Pasadena, CA 91106): As one might surmise, this one has something to do with Herbert Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God (one of Armstrong's other operations is Ambassador College). In fact, this is a newsletter published by dissident ex-members of the WCG "as a Christian service". They see the WCG as a money-grubbing, life-ruining organization, and present letters from ex-members and a different focus on Church activities than one will find in THE PLAIN TRUTH.

THE AMERICAN Dec. 1985 (\$1.75 CASH/POSTAL MO from Dean Allen, PO Box 920952, Suite 274, Houston, TX 77292-0952): A Constitutionalist sort of publication concentrating exclusively on fighting the IRS. It's put out by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, an organization which helps its members stand up to the taxman. Current activities include a couple of lawsuits against the IRS, including a class-action asking that the new W-4 reporting requirements be declared illegal.

AMERICAN FORUM #19 (\$1.50 from Box 261, Dept. E, Staten Island, NY 10302): AF is sort of a digest magazine that offers oddball new stories its editors find intriguing and contacts into various bizarre groups. Ads for a society of vampires, a bill outlawing computer kiddie porn, anti-IRS court decisions, and coverage of a guy in California who's been railroaded into jail. Subscribers receive the weekly AF UPDATER at no extra charge.

AMERICAN LIVING #16 (\$2 from PO Box 901, Allston, MA 02134): With

hand-colored covers. this MAN has a higher production standard than most of the genre. Although it's not specifically noted anywhere, this seems to be the "Wonders of Science" or perhaps the "Evolution" issue, with lots of bones and fish and so on. The art does not lean as much towards collage as some mail art does: line drawings and combined drawn/collaged pieces predominate. Well done.

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT Dec. 1985 (\$8/yr from PO Drawer A, Scottsdale, AZ 85252): Hardcore conservative anti-communist tabloid. I do not think their news coverage is always balanced, but it does not duplicate the Establishment press and it is not filled with invective. Call for boycotting Gulf/Chevron for support of the Marxist regime in Angola, a boycott not mentioned in NATIONAL BOYCOTT NEWSLETTER (below).

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA Dec. 1985 (\$1.50 from PO Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881): This is an independent animal rights newsletter, not affiliated with any particular group. As such they do an excellent job of covering the whole movement without favoritism. This issue features extensive discussions of "Making Compassion the Fashion": buying products that do not depend on animal cruelty in order to practice one's convictions. Book reviews, plenty of news stories, and contacts for the rest of the movement.

ANTIMEDIA #8 (93 cents from Zeno, 824 Haggett, Univ. of Wash., GR-10, Seattle, WA 98195): A generally anarchist zine concentrating on reprinting news of interest together with commentaries. So far they've concentrated heavily on Union Carbide, but other stories are covered, including nuclear accidents, animal rights votes and a list of top defense contractors for the conscious consumer. Zeno is finding his editorial voice, and this is becoming less a collection of reprints and more a series of alternative views on the Establishment news.

APA-L is a weekly science-fiction apa loosely connected with the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. If the idea of writing something every week in response to other people appeals to you, get in touch with me and I'll see about having a sample copy sent to you for a buck or two. It's hard to describe APA-L, as it changes so fast, but I've found it enjoyable.

ARTPOLICE Vol. 11 #2 (\$10 from Frank Gaard, 133 E. 25th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404): This is the "All-cover" issue of this idiosyncratic little art magazine. Contains 21 covers, a subscription blank, and nothing else. The covers are in a wide variety of styles, from detailed pen and ink to collage to quickie attempts at "art", whatever that may be. The subscription blank isn't anything special. The origin and purpose of this object remain a total mystery.

ATOMIC COMIX (\$1 from PO Box 14822, Gainesville, FL 32604): A collection of relatively stark and depressing comix (relative to other comix, that is -- positively cheerful when compared to pfanzine comic strips). Features the 3-Mile Island Family, a couple of disgusting strips (like "The Picnic"), and the saga of Old MacDonald, whose farm got taken over by an agribusiness when he defaulted on his loans.

BABUSHKIN'S DIGEST Vol. 1 #10 (Contribution from L. Bush, PO Box 128, Rosendale, NY 12472): An idiosyncratic little Jewish anti-authoritarian zine. I guess. Well, let's see: letters to the editor, random thoughts, interview with Jesus about the secrets of the messianic biz, and lots of little posters from the "Committee for the Proper Use of Senseless Violence". Make of it what you will.

BACKSTAGE PASS (\$1 from PO Box 9054, Fountain Valley, CA 92708): A new pfanzine that concentrates on struggling young bands from Orange County, CA -- ones that don't have any recording contracts or even much of a following yet. The styles of the bands range from 50's rock to rockabilly to 80's punk. In this first issue there are brief stories and interviews with about a dozen bands, including the Earwigs, The Classix, The Tabs and Violent Arrest. Looking for local writers.

BAG OF WIRE EXPOSE Fall 1985 (\$1 from PO Box 441230, W. Somerville, MA 02144): This seasonal MAN features mainly collage pieces though there are some other things included as well. This ish has a couple of reviews of a show these folks did on Boston Common, apparently to the complete bewilderment of passers-by. In general they claim to be exposing the false prophets of civilization.

B.A.N.G. NOTES Vol. 5 (\$1 or so from Brooklyn Anti-Nuclear Group, PO Box 2666, Brooklyn, NY 11202): Although their first allegiance is to the anti-nuke cause, these folks are involved in plenty of other activism and networking. This issue starts off with a rundown on the Big Mountain relocations and goes on into other topics such as toxic waste, peace movements in the Soviet bloc, and the NY 8+. B.A.N.G. is having financial troubles, so this may be your last chance to see one of these.

BANG! #10 (\$1.25 from 77 Newburn Ave., Medford, MA 02155): This pfanzine sticks mostly to lesser-known but good bands from around the country, avoiding too much Boston emphasis. The high point of this issue is an interview with Penelope Houston (ex-Avengers), but there are also excellent stories on bands like The Offenders, Dead Milkmen, and Prevaricators. BANG! varies the articles, doing some as interviews and some in a straight reporting mode, which makes the whole thing much easier to read. Also features record reviews & local gossip.

BASIC CHOICES Vol. 1 #1 (\$1 (?) from 1121 University Ave., Madison, WI 53715): BASIC CHOICES, Inc., is a "Midwest Center for Clarifying Political and Social Options". That's quite a mouthful, but the Basic Choices involved are mainly in the area of adult education. The most basic of these is what the whole point of adult ed is -- individual self-improvement or the fulfillment of social needs? The articles in this one will lead to a lot of people working in this area, an untapped network from the FF point of view.

BAY WINDOWS Vol. 4 #3 (\$35/yr from 1515 Washinton St., Boston, MA 02118): This tabloid can sometimes be found free around Boston campuses and carries a cover price of 50 cents. News and reviews of interest to the gay and lesbian community in New England, together with lots of ads from supportive local businesses. The big story this time is about a prison warden up in Maine who cut off visiting privileges to an inmate who kissed his male visitor on the cheek.

BAYOU LA ROSE 20 (\$5/yr from PO Box 6130, Kansas City, KS 66106): Published by the Survival Network Information Center, this tabloid paper has been concentrating on obtaining justice for those without much voice, mostly Native Americans and prisoners. This issue has much coverage of Leonard Peltier as well as information on Big Mountain, Dennis Banks, and the conditions at El Reno Federal Prison.

BE BURIED IN MAIL (SASE from JA Keel, PO Box 20024, New York, NY 10025-9992): This is a quickie listing of resources to use to fill your mailbox, including the very zine you're holding. Also lists other directories of newsletters, apas, pen pal mags and so on -- sort of a guide to guides to zines.

BEEF Vol. 5 #16 (\$12/yr from 659 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): BEEF is a general tabloid review of the arts, with a wide idea of what the arts are. This particular issue takes a mystical bent, with features on Joan Halifax, Ratha Yatra 85, and Thunder Mountain. They also review records, tapes, magazines, and videos, plus anything else that strikes their fancy. Free if you can find it in SF, worth checking out if you live elsewhere.

BETWEEN THE LINES 5 (\$1 from Erik Kosberg, 3013 Holmes Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408): A collection of the strange and the absurd culled from other zines and diverse sources -- the SubGenius Reader's Digest, sort of. GUNS FOR NUNS poster, thoughts from Ivan Stang and Tribunal Overdrive and a tell-tale CIA ad grace the pages of this issue. Future plans call for a Bag-a-Zine and a cassette issue, so get on the mailing list now.

THE BEWILDERBEAST #9 (\$2.25 from Dennis Fischer, 336 N. Spaulding Ave. #12, Los Angeles, CA 90036): This zine is devoted to B-Movies, but unlike most zines of the genre it concentrates on the moviemakers rather than the films themselves. Here Dennis interviews George Miller (director of the Mad Max films) as well as some lesser-known filmmakers. This issue also contains the valuable "1985 Survey of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films", listing over 100 titles, plus fanzine, movie & TV reviews and locs.

BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER Dec. 1985 (\$11/yr from 2911 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55406): These folks claim to be striving for a synthesis between religion and science. However, religion is clearly the first priority: "If Jesus treated Genesis 1-3 as though it actually happened, that settles it."

BIBLICAL ERRANCY #37 (75 cents from Dennis McKinsey, 3158 Sherwood Park Dr., Springfield, OH 45505): This freethought advocate is taking on the Biblical "apologists" in a direct manner. BE publishes what its editor finds to be the errors and contradictions within the Bible, and waits for the supporters to write in with their own views. The stated purpose is to let the public hear both sides and decide whether the religionists are faithful or just rationalizing.

BIG MAILS

Big Mails are generally fairly small sheets containing little ads, many of which are for other Big Mails. The rest tend to be for various get rich quick schemes, although it's tough to generalize too much about these idiosyncratic publications. For an introduction, try:

ADAMS PUBLICATIONS (25 cents from 4000 Circlewood Dr., Petersburg, VA 23803): These folks sent me a ton of ad sheets, mostly stuff typeset by other people that they're the "co-publisher" on. Seems heavy on multi-level money-raising schemes, but has lots of other stuff.

BIG APPLE NEWS 885 (SASE from JA Keel, PO Box 20024, New York, NY 10025-9992): Jakeel has been in this business for a long time, and this is a good place to start catching up to him. \$3 for a 1" ad.

Richard Manter, 897 E. Second St., Logan, OH 43138, has a catalog of rubber stamps and such available for a buck, plus various Big Mail offers.

MIKE'S 1986 PUBLICATIONS DIRECTORY (\$2 from C.M. Baker, PO Box 884, London, KY 40741): This one offers plenty of standard Big Mail listings along with directories of pen-pal and hobby publications, marriage clubs, printers, free offers and more. A good overview.

BIG YEAH #4 (75 cents + 39 cents postage from Mike Greenlees, 1019 W. Hillcrest #1, DeKalb, IL 60115): This pfnzine leans towards coverage of their own local groups, which is great -- I mean, there are hundreds of Black Flag interviews but how often do you see stuff on Happy Hunting, I-Spy, or Dangling Units? Of course. Mike also gets the big names who pass by (like Naked Raygun) and publishes reviews of vinyl, tapes, books and even TV movies, so BY is actually well-rounded.

BLATCH #11 (\$2.50 from Jim Blanchard, 741 Jenkins, Norman, OK 73069): "The graphic alternative", this is a pfnzine with a difference, and the difference is lots of art. The printing is the best I've seen in a pfnzine, and does justice to all the photos and especially the drawings, notably Jim's own dense pen-and-ink numbers. The zine starts out with interviews and reviews in the front, and gradually bleeds in more and more art, until the back few pages are a showcase of large pieces from different punk artists.

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Dec. 1985 (Donation from Loyola IHR, Loyola University, Box 12, New Orleans, LA 70118): The Loyola University Institute of Human Relations provides this journal as a means of taking a concentrated look at various problems facing our society and the world. Each issue generally spotlights one issue, usually with an article by an interested expert. The current issue summarizes the deplorable situation in Haiti (would you like a river of shit flowing by your front door?): the November issue dealt with hazardous waste. While it is impossible to treat issues like these in 8 pages, one can at least outline the problems in broad strokes.

THE BOB #25 (\$1 from PO Box 897, Ansonia Stn., New York, NY 10023): A wide-ranging music tabloid with more newspaper-like coverage than the average pfnzine has, although interviews are still one of the backbones of the zine. They cover a wide variety of music: Dead Milkmen, Dream Syndicate, and the Del Fuegos all get press in this issue. There's also a run-down on the Australian music scene and a bit on the state of the club scene in New York City. Good stuff.

BUF-O Vol. 2 #2 (SASE (?) from Klaus D. Haisch, 1729 E. Tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): I'm not so sure about this one. It looks like a refugee



apazine. with comments to a bunch of people, but without the usual apa look. Maybe this is just Klaus' way of answering all of his mail at once. Anyhow, his interests seem to be comic books and cheesy movies, and he gives some leads in both areas, plus publishes some original comix-type art.

BURNT TOAST #2 (\$1 from Phil, 4355 Ivymount Ct. #41, Annandale, VA 22003): This pfanzine is notable in providing a public service: Phil is starting up a directory of fanzines, people wanting to correspond, and people who can arrange shows or crash space for bands. If this takes off it could be invaluable to musicians touring on a shoestring. Interviews with plenty of bands plus the staff of FLIPSIDE magazine, record and pfanzine reviews round out the package.

THE BVI GROUP

The BVI Group is a network of franchised fanzines. If you subscribe to one you may well get samples of all. They share a generally oddball view of the world, a low-budget xeroxed look, and an affinity for little promo items like pens and calendars.

BVI-CENTRAL #5 (\$1.25 from PO Box 44025, Omaha, NE 68144-0025): Farm news, poetry, comics, phony news, and the threat of BVI cassettes in the future. Soon to be offering reprints of other BVIs.

BVI-DALLAS (SASE c/o BVI-CENTRAL, PO Box 44025, Omaha, NE 68144): Single-sheeter. Complaints about car. Complaints about readers. Boring.

BVI-KANSAS CITY (SASE (?) from General Delivery, Overland Park, KS 66207): "For small and student artists with serious art to publish, NOT inane dribble like BVI Minneapolis." Collages, poetry, drawings.

BVI-LINCOLN #4 (25 cents from Lisa Rant, PO Box 81275, Lincoln, NE 68501-1275): Collages, small bits of philosophy, intriguing little prose poems.

BVI-MINNEAPOLIS #1 (SASE c/o BVI-CENTRAL, PO Box 44025, Omaha, NE 68144-0025): A series of pen & ink drawings done under the influence of Peter Gabriel music, by a Minneapolis recluse using BVI-CENTRAL as a mail drop.

BVI-PACIFICA (\$1.50 from PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): A lot meatier than most of the newer BVIs. Fiction, bumper stickers for the astral plane, cartoons, poetry, grafitti and SubGenius-based whatnot. Overall, a subtle metaprogramming effect manifests itself.

BVI-SOUTH Vol. 5 #1 (SASE (?) from PO Box 787, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0787): Space-shuttle hijacking, George Bush sits on it, spying tips for the beginner.

BVI-WEST #6 (50 cents from PO Box 154, Denver, CO 80201-0154): A few phony wire-service stories, a more realistic TV GUIDE, and the winners of Fat-Chance Millionaire Bingo.

BVI PRESENTS THE ISLANDER (50 cents from PO Box 787, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0787): Sort of "Father of BVI", this is a parody of the high school paper from Grand Island, NE, where most of the BViers went to school. Mostly of historical interest, typical high-school satire.

BVI-PIECE O'PAPER (FREE from BVIOWA, PO Box 787, Council Bluff, IA 51502-0787): Response to critics who claim all of BVI is a waste of paper. 2" by 8". "It's a joke".

BVI PRESENTS THE BOOK (\$1 from PO Box 44025, Omaha, NE 68144-0025): First part of a serialized work discussing the fictional lives and times of various BViers. Bears a striking resemblance in narrative technique to Moorcock's CORNELIUS CHRONICLES.

You can get your own BVI franchise for only \$10. Write to any of the above franchisees for more details.

CATALOGS

Everyone likes a catalog. Here's a few of my favorites from the past quarter's mail:

CADAKE INDUSTRIES (PO Box 1866, Clayton, GA 30525) sells books about discoveries suppressed by modern science. Lots of Tesla and UFO references.

THIS CALLIGRAPHIC BUTTON CATALOGUE NEEDS NO TITLE (SASE from Nancy Lebovitz, 400 Wollaston Ave. #C6, Newark, DE 19711): Nancy offers hundreds of hand-calligraphed buttons with clever or stinal slogans at very reasonable rates (40 cents each if you buy enough). The buttons are fun, the service is quick, and the catalogue is good reading.

CIRCLE CATALOG (FREE from Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): Circle is a pagan resource center. Their catalog is full of stuff for the pagan: books, incense, tapes, crystals, amulets and so on.

CHRIS DUFFY (SASE from RT. 6, Rosson's #8, Murphysboro, IL 62966): Chris is my comics connection, offering new and used underground comics and various other graphic items including books and posters.

FACE THE MUSIC (Sample FREE from PO Box 163142, Sacramento, CA 95816): These folks sell zillions of records and record-related things, new and used, including books, tapes, posters, videos and of course records. The prices are good, the selection is fantastic, and the service is prompt and courteous. I've used them before and will use them again. They also offer a free record search service.

FLOATING WORLD (\$2 from 804 N. Cherokee, Hollywood, CA 90038): These folks distribute independent records, cassettes, and publications at NO MARK-UP. What this means is lots of new music under \$2. Nifty idea.

K NEWLETTER #4 (FREE from PO Box 7154, Olympia, WA 98507): K is a small tape company and this is actually a catalog of their products, mainly experimental cassettes.

MAGUS COYOTE'S LITTLE BAG OF TRICKS (\$1.50 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): Yael has had stuff reviewed in the past couple of FFs and I encourage those of you interested in the occult, SubGenius, or poetry to drop her a line for this price list of goods and services.

ARCHIE MCPHEE & COMPANY (FREE from PO Box 30852, Seattle, WA 98103): Fantastic stuff, from lawn flamingos to duck hats to rubber dinosaurs to 2 foot long inflatable "Designer Rat" to fake rocks to lobster-claw harmonicas to...A great selection of toys and decor.

NOMADIC BOOKS NEWSLETTER (FREE from 401 NE 45th, Seattle, WA 98105): These folks sell a lot of travel books, both name-brand and esoteric. The newsletter also includes a variety of little tips and ideas for the globetrotter.

PALO ALTO BOOK SERVICE (FREE from 200 California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306): "The writings of Ayn Rand and her philosophy, Objectivism" are what these guys sell.

PARELLEX (FREE from 1285 Mark St., Bensenville, IL 60106): All sorts of paramilitary stuff: camo gear, belt knives, binoculars, pistol grips, etc., ad nauseum.

QUERIES (FREE from PO Box 811, Junction City, KS 66441): This one is G. Michael O'Hara's listing of subversive broadsides and posters for sale to the unsuspecting dupe. These are sort of "Son of the Last International" things, seditious thoughts for those not afraid to think.

TARGET VIDEO (FREE from 678 S. Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94110): These guys sell a lot of videos that you won't see on MTV, chiefly 60 - 90 minute "video LPs" of hardcore and experimental artists. At \$35 a pop I haven't been able to afford to order any, but they look intriguing.

ZBS FOUNDATION (FREE from RR #1, Box 1201, Fort Edward, NY 12828): These folks sell "cassette adventures", mainly fantasy and SF stories crafted especially for the medium. Prices start at \$4.

Also check out the BOOKS section for a few more catalogs.

Remember, people send out catalogs free because they expect business out of the deal. Be a nice person and don't send for these unless you think you might order something.

CHEAP TRUTH (SASE from Vincent Omniaveritas, 809-C W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701): This one-sheet sfzine concentrates on science fiction rather than its readers, which is somewhat of a change for the genre. Indeed, this issue concentrates on an analysis of the "Pournelle Disciples", an emerging group of right-wing libertarian writers with what are seen as dangerous though unrealistic ideas. It's worth remembering that SF is not just innocent storytelling but in some cases blatant propaganda, and CT does a good job of pointing this out.

CHRISTMAS, CHEESECAKE AND SHADES OF VAGUE (44 cents postage & 1/2" of hair from B.J. Horgeshimer, 3033 W. Capital 24, Grand Island, NE 68803): A zine from an unindicted co-conspirator of the BVI Group. Features photocopied cheesecake, various silly things, and thoughts on Christmas as a Soap Opera. B.J. says, "PS - The hair is MANDATORY!"

CIRCLE A IN ATLANTA #14 (Donation from PO Box 57114, Atlanta, GA 30343-1114): CAIA is a left-leaning anarchist zine with particularly good coverage of actual events in the Atlanta area and elsewhere. There emphasis is on changing the system now, rather than anarchist analysis, although they

are capable of the latter when it is called for. This issue has some publicity for the 1986 Haymarket activities, reportage on Hiroshima Day protests in Atlanta, an article on the PMRC folderol, and thoughts on the Rainbow Warrior sinking and South African politics. All in all, CAIA is well-written and down to earth, working hard to build useful coalitions and sometimes even succeeding.

THE CIRCLE Vol. 6 #9 (\$10/yr from MAIC, 1530 E. Franklin, Minneapolis, MN 55404): MAIC is the Minneapolis American Indian Center, and this tabloid is full of "news from an American Indian perspective". All-Indian World Olympics, National Indian Directory, poetry, lots more stuff.

CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS Fall 1985 (\$3 from PO Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): CIRCLE is a "non-profit international resource center of Nature Spirituality". This neopagan group has even managed to buy land for a sanctuary. The NEWS features articles on the sanctuary, herbcraft, rituals, crystals and book reviews, plus news of interest to the pagan movement and various goods and services. Also has a section for individual pagans seeking contacts.

THE CITIZEN'S CLAW Dec. 1985 (\$1.50 from PO Box 441, Morongo Valley, CA 92256): This is the official publication of the New Nation USA, a group dedicated to overthrowing the current unConstitutional government by fouding their own and competing with it. The people behind this are often fighting head-on against the local "authorities", and the CLAW is a constant source of information on Constitutionalist legal strategies.

CLINTON ST. QUARTERLY (\$12/8 issues from 1520 Western Ave., Seattle, WA 98101): This is a tabloid struggling to become a self-sustaining professional magazine. Their focus seems to be on the future and on alternatives for the present. This issue leads off with a couple of articles talking about alternatives for future technology, and then cuts into a couple of short stories concerned with the human condition. Wrapping up everything is an article on whether Boeing can be converted to a non-military company without ruining the area's economy.

THE CLOSEST PENGUINS #9 (\$1 from 625A Natoma, San Francisco, CA 94103): After a year of publication, this magazine of small writings has found its own unpretentious voice. Under the gentle guidance of Denise Dee the contributors pour their hearts and lives out for us, not making a scene, but merely seeking to make a human connection to other minds. I don't want to pick out any particular story as great writing -- that's not the point -- but I will say that I consistently move CP to the top of the review stack as soon as it comes in. Writing like this is not found everywhere.

COLTSFOOT Vol. VI #6 (\$10/yr from James Troy, Route 1, Box 313A, Shipman, VA 22971): "In appreciation of wild plants", this zine concentrates on edible and medicinal wild plants but sometimes branches out to other topics. The lead article in this issue is on sassafras, its uses and its dangers. There's also a discussion of the plants of Puerto Rico and an interesting letter column, including discussion of immunizing oneself against poison ivy.

THE COMMENT, Vol. 22 #4 (c/o The Student Bar Association, 765 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215): This one is sort of amusing, being the Law School paper from Boston University. Care to guess what earthshaking issue is taking up most of their pages? The administration refuses to allow them to get drunk at on-campus parties! The rest is mostly on where to look for a good job after graduation. Ah, the joys of youth.



COMMON CAUSE Dec. 1985 (60 cents from 1501 Billings St., Oxnard, CA 93033): A pfanzine from Ventura County, covering the outer fringes of the LA music scene, although that's not quite fair as there are a lot of bands actually based in the Oxnard area. CC has grown from a one-sheeter to a dozen pages over the past year, and now features live show reviews, record and zine reviews, and interviews with local bands. This issue features a talk with Oxnard's A BLACK AFAIRE.

COMMUNIST BULLETIN #9 (50 pence, or, I guess, a mess of IRCs from Communist Bulletin Group, Box 85, 43 Candlemakers Row, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK): This comes from a group of self-proclaimed revolutionary communists who find everyone else to be mere lackeys of the State and contemptible. They are terribly serious, use a lot of long words, and spend most of their pages analyzing what's wrong with society in general and other communist parties in particular. Deadly dull.

THE CONNECTION #131 (\$1.50 from Erwin S. Strauss, 4271 Duke St. #D-10, Alexandria, VA 22304): TC is an apa mainly intended for libertarians and fellow travelers, although anyone who likes a good philosophical argument would fit right in. Past discussion topics have included Jaynes' theory of the bicameral mind, post-nuclear proliferation survival strategy, and shooting IRS agents for fun and profit. A warning: TC is very fine print; about 3/4 the size of what you're reading, sometimes less.

CONSERVATIVE DIGEST (\$20/yr from 1635 Blue Spruce Rd., Ft. Collins, CO 80524): This is definitely a slick, not a fanzine, but I found it funny enough to be worth sharing. It looks like a parody of READER'S DIGEST, right down to the typography and layout, but is apparently completely serious. Sample articles: "The KGB In America", "Abortion in Red China" and "Nobel Prize for Propaganda", in which the editor lists commie-symp winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, including Martin Luther King and Henry Kissinger.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIVAL Nov. 1985 (\$12/yr from 29 Fairfield Rd., Enfield, CT 06082): This is the zine of Andrew Melechinsky's Constitutionalist group. They're fighting a couple of court cases right now, although exactly what they're involved in isn't too clear. This issue mainly contains the text of a couple of "Citizen's Arrest Warrants" against various judges and officers of the court.

CORNERSTONE Vol. 14 #75 (\$1.75 from Jesus People USA, 4707 N. malden, Chicago, IL 60640): These guys have the usual theological articles in front, but in back you suddenly run into Rock and Roll, mostly in the form of Rez, aka The Resurrection Band, who are another offshoot of TJP. A mildly interesting synthesis of two usually-opposing groups.

CRITIQUE #19/20 (\$8 from Bob Banner, PO Box 11451, Santa Rosa, CA 95406): Weighing in at a 200-page digest, this would be back with the books were it not for the fact that Bob keeps it coming out on a regular schedule. CRITIQUE is a must-have for any student, serious or otherwise, of conspiracy theory and its implications. There are dozens of scholarly articles here, presented from a thoughtful point of view rather than that of a true believer. For example, Eric Wynants presents an account of the downfall of the Cathars; Bob Black discusses the phenomenology of lying; Tom Atlee points out some interesting facts about peace movement strategies; and Philip Melanson brings out the connection between Lee Harvey Oswald and the U-2 spy plane. This only scratches the tip of the iceberg, for this "Journal of Conspiracy & Metaphysics" has something in it to boggle every mind.

CULT COMIX #1 (50 cents + 22 cents postage from Mumbles Publications, PO Box 7243, Wichita, KS 67218): A collection of single-frame cartoons of cult leaders doing various authoritarian things. A typical example is the guy on the phone saying "That's right, pizza and beer for one, toxic-grape Kool Aid for 950". You want more, buy the whole thing.

DAILY BARBARIAN #5 (39 cents SASE from Urbane Gorilla, PO Box 02455, Detroit, MI 48202): This is an anti-nuclear special issue of this zine, with the expected graphics and Hiroshima horror stories. It is saved from the scrapheap of anonymity by a couple of perceptive articles. The first suggests that the US had many military alternatives to dropping the bomb, so that it was a purely political decision to do so. The second and more interesting condemns the nuclear freeze movement for attempting to treat the symptoms rather than the disease, and writes it off as another failed attempt to operate within the system. Thought-provoking.

DE PROFUNDIS #166 (\$5/yr from LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601): This is the newszine of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, one of the more established SF clubs in the country. Of interest mostly to those who know something of the LASFS, it contains a calendar of LArea events, minutes of LASFS and LASFS board meetings, and miscellaneous news about or of interest to LA fandom.

THE D.M. NEWSLETTER #31 (22 cents postage from PO Box 58152, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8152): The DM are of course the DEAD MILKMEN, a bizarre comedy-punk band who have actually got a record out on a semi-major label (see FF16). The NEWSLETTER chronicles their exploits, stir-frying roaches and getting stoned before shows, and has the same confusing attitude towards life as their music does.

DIALOGUE Vol. 5 #5 (\$7/yr from Brad Ott, 916 Euterpe St., New Orleans, LA 70130): "New Orleans Alternative Monthly Newsjournal" is still going strong after 57 issues and I hope they never stop. Covering a broad variety of progressive causes, DIALOGUE always has news of interest even for those of us who've never been to Louisiana in our lives. This issue includes thoughts on Direct Action, information on postal security, the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the wonderful Archihorse comic, as well as plenty of local info.

THE DILLINGER RELIC 43 (\$2 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): Aside from a regrettable tendency to treat football as a proper topic for adult conversation, DR remains Arthur's witty diary of his own life and the world that surrounds it. In the tradition of sfanzines past, Arthur doesn't necessarily stick to the facts when he can be a smartass instead, but on the other hand, he talks about science fiction when he feels like it. Current topics include pinball, the new REALIST, XXX movies and neep-neepery.

DISCUSSION BULLETIN #15 (Contribution from DB Committee, PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): This is a mainly-socialist apa, operating in hopes of building up a political "Third Force" in America. Many of the writers here have a background in DeLeonism, the IWW, and other native American socialistic organizations. At times the debate gets annoyingly technical, but much of the writing here is honestly thought-provoking, whether one believes in socialism or not.

DOO/DAH #1 (\$7/yr from D. Cole, 336 Hoover Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003): A beautiful example of the free market spewing forth something which the world has long needed: A Bonzo Dog Band fan club. For those not in the know, the Bonzos were a seminal and hilarious English band, and you should run right out and find copies of all their albums, right after subscribing to this. The zine itself is a beautiful full-color effort, featuring all sorts of little goodies folded between the pages -- pictures, photos, news stories, ticket stub reproductions, and who knows what else. The guys running this are true Bonzo fanatics, and promise to bring us even more great stuff in future months. I expect they'll deliver, as this initial effort is amazingly strong for any zine.

DREAMSHORE #25 (\$1 from Jan Byron, 618 S. Mitchell, Bloomington, IN 47401): DREAMSHORE is oriented towards dreams, fantasy and imagination, but it's not a kids magazine, unless you understand that to mean "kids of all ages". Fun little stories, history of the Republic of Melania (which exists somewhere on the border between fantasy and reality), space shuttle news, TV cartoon reviews, books, and lots more. Writer's Guide is available for an SASE.

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY Vol. V #9 (75 cents from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): This reviewzine covers the field of mystery pretty well, branching out into thrillers and adventure novels on occasion. This is the special holiday issue, featuring gift books suggestions from a bunch of mystery cognoscenti. As always, the heart of DROOD is book reviews, ranging from paragraphs to pages in length. A fun way to keep track of what's being published in the field.

THE DUCKBERG TIMES #7 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 382, Alexandria, VA 22313): These folks are aiming to establish a "READER'S DIGEST of alternative publications". This issue mainly contains comics reprints from various sources, but there are also record reviews, a DC-area concert schedule, and a few reprinted articles. If this succeeds it could be a real boon for the

non-mainstream publisher -- get in touch if you have stuff for them to reprint.

THE DUPLEX PLANET #70 (\$1.25 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): David composes this magazine from interviews with people living at the Duplex Nursing Home. They've got a lot to offer in the way of thoughts and memories, and David's questions direct the conversation without being intrusive. This is the Dog issue, featuring reminiscences about a bunch of pets, as well as dissenting opinions from those who don't like the furry critters.

DVORAK DEVELOPMENTS #43 (\$12/yr from Freelance Communications, PO Box 717, Arcata, CA 95521): The Dvorak keyboard is an alternative layout for typewriters and the like that makes it possible to achieve high typing speeds much more easily than the usual QWERTY layout does. This newsletter is devoted to reporting on Dvorak products and uses. Plenty of ads and contact addresses for those who want to investigate changing over.

DWIDZINE #2 (44 cents postage from 8 Beech St., Merrimack, NH 03054): This new pfanzine features a mix of skateboarding news and music reviews. What with the weather in this area, the skate news is mostly a discussion of what to do when the streets are covered with ice; the reviews cover the Clash, Dead Kennedys and some local live shows.

EAR MEAT #4 (SASE from Trent Radio, Trent University, Peterborough, Ont K9J 7B8 CANADA): This is the written auxiliary of Trent Radio's weekly THE CASSETTE SHOW, which features 100% original independent music from cassettes. Joanna Rogers always welcomes new cassettes for the show, and everything eventually gets reviewed in EM as well. The music ranges from rock to experimental, with side trips in between.

ELITIST ENNUI #36 (SASE from Alex McKale, 812 Clark St. #2B, Evanston, IL 60201): This is a small and pleasant sfanzine, written entirely by Alex. He jumps about from subject to subject in a series of vignettes, pointing out the absurdities in the world as well as discussing his own life & work as a nuclear physicist. In this issue we have the medical hazards of break-dancing, same-sex dancing at Disneyland, and the correlation between Halley's Comet and cold weather, plus lots more stuff.

EMANCIPATION #64 (SASE from Anarchist Association of the Americas, PO Box 840, Benjamin Franklin Stn., Washington, DC 20044): This one tends to be a fairly low-key anarchist journal, emphasizing reports on current affairs and anarchist history rather than calls for violent action or abstract theorizing. The two big articles in this issue discuss Nuclear Colonialism in the Pacific and the freedom struggles in the Philippines. Also of interest is the stuff on Takamure Itsue, a little-known Japanese anarcho-feminist.

EPIA SOCIETY DIGEST Jan. 1986 (\$2 from PO Box 6163, San Bernardino, CA 92412): This Constitutionalist zine consists mainly of reprints from other, less widely-circulated patriot publications. This issue discusses check kiting by bankers, a listing of IRS abuses of power (such as the armed seizure of a day care center), and arguments against the Constitutionality of traffic tickets. EPIA also offers lots of reprinted reports on various aspects of tax law and other matters of interest.

FANOLA #6 (99 cents from John Eades, 9429 Silverthorn Dr., Lake Park, IL 33403): This is the last issue of this zine devoted to underground comix and the surrounding culture, but it and back issues are still available. John reviews a bunch of stuff (some as far afield as FACTSHEET FIVE) and interviews artist D. Worden, plus gives his parting views on the scene.

FAN'TOONS 9 (75 cents plus 39 cents postage from Ed Vick, 1002 Fuller-Wiser, Apt. 4121, Euless, TX 76039): This "minizine" is the sfanzine equivalent of a minicomic: smaller and less expensive than your usual zine but still a lot of fun. This one is about 50-50 drawings and text, with most of the drawings being recognizably "fannish" styles of artwork. I liked a lot of the art, particularly the drawings by Kyle Miller and Brad Foster. There are also a few random thoughts and a quite active letter column.

FALSE POSITIVE #4 (\$3 from Donna Kossy, PO Box 432, Boston, MA 02258): Still sporting those wonderful color-xerox covers, FP is a MAN most of whose contributors don't realize they're doing mail art. This is the "crime" issue and as such features a thoughts on crime, criminals and the absurdities

of the law from Donna and her cohorts. Some of these are written, some are collaged, and some are just indescribable. The tail end of this mag contains the KOOKS section, a lovable regular feature containing the best output of those people who try to communicate with an unhearing society via cryptic broadsides.

THE FAMILIST Vol. 4 #6 (FREE from 5324 Sun Valley Dr., El Paso, TX 79924): Organ of the Familist Movement, which is heavily behind children's rights and the protection of the family. This issue features much interesting material, including an interview with Murray Rothbard and a letter from Marc Shuyten discussing in detail the police persecution that his magazine has undergone. To get this one must join the Familist movement, but that doesn't cost anything except an ideological interest.

FAMOUS HARDCORE OF PUNKLAND #2 \$1 from Craig Hill, PO Box 26684, San Jose, CA 95159): Just what the man says, Martha, one more o' them pfanzines. FHOP is more varied than most, with poll results, an Iggy Pop article with pictures, the same for Verbal Abuse, other interviews, a Leather Nun centerfold, zine, record and movie reviews in this issue. The zine reviews stick to hardcore, which I approve of since it doesn't eat into my readership but still provides a concentrated contact list.

THE FESSENDEN REVIEW (\$3 from PO Box 7272, San Diego, CA 92107): It's hard to get a handle on this one. It is, I think, primarily a literary magazine, featuring stories, poetry, photos and so on. However, the bulk of it is not any of these, but rather book reviews -- of everything: Gloria Vanderbilt's autobiography, cookbooks, Douglas Adams' latest novel, small-press poetry. Perhaps there is meant to be some overall thread here, but on the whole, I found TFR to be disorganized and worse, boring.

FLIPSIDE #47 (\$1 from PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): If you think punk is dead or that no one cares, you haven't seen FLIPSIDE. This thing is as big as NEWSWEEK and covers as much of the new music scene as they can get their arms around. The letters are amazing and literate, the photos are plentiful and energetic, show reviews, interviews, thoughts on anarchy, article on Goldenvoice concert security...too much to even mention, let alone review. If you haven't seen FLIPSIDE, you've missed a hell of a lot of good music.

FORCED EXPOSURE #9 (\$2 from 719 Washington St. #172, Newtonville, MA 02160):

"Awesome" is the word that comes to mind when contemplating this pfanzine. 120 pages of material, well-written and attractively presented. There's all the usual stuff, so let's talk about the unusual: The gargantuan MISSION OF BURMA interview; Art and biography from Chet XNO; 3 one-act plays from Nick Cave; reviews of Philip K. Dick books; Lydia Lunch pix. Subscribe at 4/\$8 and get a 45 of BIG BLACK with the next issue.

FORTE Vol. 2 #2 (\$5/yr from Midwest Music, Inc., 207 E. Buffalo St. #545, Milwaukee, WI 53202): MMI is a "women-owned business committed to promoting women's music, music by and about women, and alternative artists". This magazine has articles on some of their recording artists, a list of retail outlets that carry their products, and concert tour dates in addition to a catalog and order blank.

FORWARD Fall 1985 (\$7.50/yr from Christian Research Institution, PO Box 500, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693): This journal is devoted to education and evangelism, concentrating on non-Christian religions, the occult, and

FORWARD Fall 1985 (\$7.50/yr from Christian Research Institution, PO Box 500, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693): This journal is devoted to education and evangelism, concentrating on non-Christian religions, the occult, and



Christian theology. It concentrates on exposing and explaining what it considers to be errors of faith or facts in such disciplines as the New Age, Islam, and Pentecostalism. Yet surprisingly it gives a clear, balanced presentation of the things it attacks, without stooping to invective or lies. Genuinely interesting information with a slight Christian slant.

FOR YOUR SKULL#10 (72 cents from 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): This is from Carah Productions, who also have a couple of entries in the Minicomics field (see below). FYS features art from a bunch of folks who draw strangely deranged things: Carrie and Sarah, CE Emmer, John Crawford (of BABOON DOOLEY fame) and John E. Sandbag, who is new to me but very good. These single-page strips tend to be more stylistic than plotted, but they're certainly a change from the traditional underground comic.

FREEDOM Vol. 18 #1 (\$1.50 from 1301 N. Catalina St., Los Angeles, CA 90027): FREEDOM is a muckraking newspaper which happens to be connected with the Church of Scientology. With that background it's not surprising that they go after the IRS a lot, but I've seen their findings verified a lot of other places -- the agency and individual agents really are guilty of an incredible number of abuses, and it's nice to see someone blowing the whistle on them. I find their allegations of mind-control warfare on the part of the CIA less credible but still interesting.

FREEDOM GUIDE Vol. 2 #1 (50 cents from C.L.S., 300 W. Shaw Ave. #205, Clovis, CA 93612): I've only an incomplete copy of this Constitutionalist tabloid, but it appears to be largely concerned with fighting the IRS. CLS is Constitutional Legal Services, and they offer a lot of books and services, up to and including a complete set of legal motions on floppy disk for those fighting their own tax cases.

THE FREEDOM MESSENGER (\$1 or \$10/100 copies from CJT, PO Box 368, Dolton, IL 60419): CJT is the Citizens for Just Taxation, and this Constitutionalist publication does not assume too much familiarity with the movement, as it is intended for mass educational distribution. Contains introductory articles on 4 of the most popular concerns of the Constitutionlists: non-ratification of the 16th Amendment, tax withholding, the Federal Reserve System, and jury nullification. A handy summary.

THE FREEMAN Jan. 1986 (FREE from FEE, Irvington-On-Hudson, NY 10533): "A monthly study journal of free market, private property, limited government ideas and ideals", THE FREEMAN has undergone a face lift for the new year, and now sports a slick cover and an overall more attractive look. Inside are the same hardcore free market arguments as always. This issue concentrates somewhat on international issues, with articles on the world market and immigration. Also included are numerous other articles and a 30-year retrospective by their chief book reviewer.

FREENETWORK DIRECTORY, Winter 1985 (\$2.50 from Dagny Sharon, PO Box 224, Long Beach, CA 90801): The indefatigable Dagny has become the US Representative for Project Freenetwork, a global linkage of people who want to promote freedom for themselves and others. This quarterly directory contains a Register of members, listing their particular projects and concerns, plus a number of ads for PF companies, ranging from a microfiche apa to someplace selling telescopes and tape recorders. PF is attempting to change the world by building up a secondary economy and society; maybe they'll succeed.

THE FRINGE #3 (60 cents from PO Box 3107, Bellingham, WA 98227): This is mostly a pfanzone, but editor James Fringe also has a strong interest in comic books and that's reflected here as well. News on the Bellingham scene (such as it is), a thoughtful article on "Feminism and Sadomasochism and comic books and rock and roll", and an interview with primal metalcore band THE ACCUSED (now diversifying their music) are the high points of this issue.

FRONT LINE NEWS #1 (\$10/yr from PO Box 915, Stn. F. Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9 CANADA): This is the newsletter of the Support Group for ALP Canada, with the ALP being the Animal Liberation Front. The SG is the aboveground arm of this avowedly lawbreaking organization which uses direct action in defense of animal rights. "Direct Action" means liberating lab animals, slashing tires at slaughterhouses, spraypainting furriers' signs, and so on. FLN is for people who support these things but don't want to get involved on an illegal level.

FULL DISCLOSURE #6 (\$1.50 from PO Box 8275-29, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): This is a muckraking pub, dedicated to bringing out the truth about government activities and functioning regardless of any "intimidation or harassment". This issue has Lynn Johnston on wrongs committed by judges, a couple of articles on the IRS, and some book reviews. FD also sells copies of various FOIA documents, and is organizing a network of "Commodity Holding" investors to provide non-Establishment financing for worthy ventures.

F.U.T.U.R.E. Vol. 2 #3 (\$1.75 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): A futurist publication by amateurs, proving that the little guy can stand right up there with the big think tanks. No original research, but ideas pulled together from lots of sources on where we might be headed, not only in terms of technology, but for better human life. This issue has articles on hot springs, synthesizers, the income tax, and alternative farming, as well as their usual International Calendar of Events.

FUZZBRAINS 10 (\$1 from PO Box 2436, Worcester, MA 01613): "ROCK n' ROLL LIVES!", proclaims the cover of this pfanzone. Inside, they give more evidence for this point of view. After a few quick columns on the local (Worcester & Boston) scenes, they get into heavy-duty in-depth coverage of just two bands: Barrance Whitfield and the Savages leads off, followed by multiple articles on the Cannibals. Back cover devoted to the Avengers TV show.

GARGOYLE #27 (\$5.95 from PO Box 3567, Washington, DC 20007): Before you get het up about the price, let me just say this would be in the BOOKS section if the damned thing wasn't published twice a year. At about 300 typeset pages and weighing in over a pound, this thing makes most zines look pretty pathetic. GARGOYLE is a digest of the arts, mainly American poetry although they branch out a lot -- this issue also has photos and drawings, interviews with half a dozen writers, a section on the current German scene, and reviews of more chapbooks than you can shake a stick at. Send your poetry here or to SAMISDAT for review and you'll get a lot better treatment than you will from me. An incredible bargain.

THE GENTLE ANARCHIST #10 (Contribution from Cooperative Economics, PO Box 1313, Lawrence, KS 66044): Put out by a "non-profit, anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian student group", this tabloid draws together all sorts of anarchist news and views from a generally co-operationist viewpoint. This issue contains a couple pages of letters and responses. I think the new tabloid format is going to be a winner even if the PO did mung my copy.

GLC VOICE #130 (\$15/yr from 1517 LaSalle #E, Minneapolis, MN 55403): While I think the masthead statement "for gays, lesbians and civilized others" might be putting things a bit strongly, this newspaper is clearly fulfilling a need for news of and for the gay community. Most of the articles are of local interest, although there are also book and music reviews and columns that will appeal to a broader spectrum of folks. AIDS is of course a big topic, but there are also legal stories, holiday celebrations and a lot more here.

GOING UNDER #8 (50 cents from 4746 Northgate, Ann Arbor, MI 48103): This one is put out by people interested in new music, and includes interviews and zine and show reviews, but it's not really a pfanzone. The first half of GU is filled with various writings of social and political import -- a condemnation of the information age, a talk with an El Salvadorian refugee, an article on abortion, and so on. These people take their rebellion against the world seriously.

GOLDMINE #141 (\$1.95 from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): GOLDMINE is the zine for record collectors, featuring hundreds of ads from people buying and selling rare (and otherwise) recordings. There are also music articles in each issue (like a story on the Buckingham's this time). This particular issue is worth trying to get hold of for the special bonus: a listing of over 700 fan club addresses, ranging from Abbott & Costello to ZZ Top.

GROWTH JOURNAL Jan. 1986 (\$8/yr from HPI, PO Box 802, Bedford, TX 76021): This is the organ of the Human Potential Institute of North Central Texas. As such it contains mostly light "New Age" material -- thoughts on holism, discussions of creativity, "Psycho-energetics" and so on. Also has some articles on current HPI activities and officers.

HANDICAP NEWS Dec. 1985 (\$1 + SASE from 272 N. 11th Ct., Brighton, CO 80601): In addition to the selection of news they've been carrying, HN has now branched out to start publishing poetry and other short writings. The heart of the zine is still the reporting of legal cases, new medical technologies and resources for those with a wide variety of handicaps -- from juvenile arthritis to diabetes to blindness. Contains many contact addresses for more specific organizations and resources.

HARVEST, Yule 1985 (\$1.50 from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): HARVEST is a pagan zine with a heavy emphasis on practical ideas and networking. They're very good about publishing announcements and contacts of interest to the pagan community. This issue also has a retelling of the Orion myth together with the appropriate astronomy, snappy answers for tiresome questions people ask pagans, and a selection of items from regular newspapers of interest to pagans.

HATE LITERATURE

In response to reader requests for information, here are contact addresses and brief descriptions for things that I find to be well beyond the bounds of good taste in their attacks on particular groups. I most definitely do not endorse any of these groups, but I feel it is worthwhile to keep informed of the trends in this area.

ALAMO CHRISTIAN CHURCH (PO Box 398, Alma, AR 72921): Distribute all sorts of pamphlets blaming the world's evils on the Nazi Catholic Church.

AMERICA'S PROMISE NEWSLETTER (Donation from PO Box 30000, Phoenix, AZ 85046): Identity Christians. They say they're not neo-Nazis, they just hate Jews and communists.

AN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN BIBLE (\$5 from Sovereign Press, 326 Harris Rd., Rochester, WA 98579): This is Tom Jefferson's extracts of the gospels, in itself innocuous, but it's packaged with explanatory notes which condemn and attack the Jews and Catholics for perverting Christianity.

THE BARNES LETTER (\$2 from Christian Technocracy, PO Box 20148, Oakland, CA 94620-0148): Frothing attack on the "satanic, talmudic, MONGOLOID Jew-conspiracy to annihilate the White Race" via banking.

BEHIND COMMUNISM (\$1 from Church of the Creator, PO Box 400, Otto, NC 28763): It's all those Jews, of course.

THE CHRISTIAN PATRIOT CRUSADER (\$1.50 from Jack Mohr, 113 Ballentine St., Bay St. Louis, MS, 39520): Mostly straightforward anti-Semitism, but also says Coke contains cocaine, the Soviets & Iranians are in Mexico planning an invasion, and D&D preaches Satanism.

THE CONFEDERATE LEADER #85-7 (50 cents from White Patriot Party, Route 1, Box 386, Angier, NC 27501): They may not be the Klan, but there's not much difference.

END TIMES PROPHETICAL NEWSLETTER (\$10/yr from Spirit of Prophecy Bus Ministries, PO Box 19020/277, Las Vegas, NV 89132): Anti-apartheid activists are Commie-front dupes.

HEIRS OF THE BLESSING (SASE to PO Box 52, Herrin, IL 62948): Cassette tapes of anti-Jewish, anti-black, anti-democrat horseshit. Also tapes of conspiracy research, Constitutionalist issues, etc.

'HOLOCAUST' NEWS (\$1 from Truth Missions, PO Box 3849, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266): Steadfast denial of Nazi concentration camps combined with accusations of racism against the Jews.

MIDNIGHT ALARM Vol. 2 #4 (\$1 from PO Box 2246, Anaheim, CA 92804): Vicious condemnation of homosexuals and demands that they be prevented from corrupting children or living in peace.

THE MOUNTAIN CHURCH (PO Box 331, Cohoctah, MI 48816): A "Racial Theological Mission" that believes in divine creation for whites, descent from apes for everyone else.

NAACP NEWS #35 (\$10/yr from PO Box 10625, New Orleans, LA 70181): That's the National Association for the Advancement of White People. They claim to be no more racist than the NAACP, then suggest that welfare recipients be paid not to have kids.

NATIONAL VANGUARD #103 (\$2.50 from PO Box 2264, Arlington, VA 22202): Straight anti-Jewish pro-Hitler racism.

NEW SOLIDARITY Vol. XVI #73 (\$1 from Campaigner Publications, PO Box 17726, Washington, DC 20041-0726): Lyndon LaRouche's anti-gay, anti-British, anti-democrat newspaper. Loonie-tune conspiracy theories.

NSV REPORT Vol. 2 #4 (SASE (?) from National Socialist Vanguard, PO Box 5035, Salinas, CA 93905): A self-proclaimed "White survival" group.

OVERCOMERS' INK (15 cents from PO Box 2137, Trego, WI 54888): A borderline case, mostly Fundamentalist Christian but lists "Racial Intermarriage" as one of the "7 Sins of Canaan".

THE TORCH #126 (\$10/yr from PO Box 373, Harrison, AR 72601): "The National Voice of Christian Identity", they encourage youth to marry only "sound stock of your own kind".

THE VOICE OF LIBERTY (Contribution from 692 Sunnybrook Dr., Decatur, GA 30033): Christian anti-IRS, anti-black, anti-homosexual publication.

THE HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR (\$6/yr from PO Box 3181, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55403): A short zine concentrating on issues of interest to the secular humanist of your choice. News of a prison censoring OVERTHROW magazine (why?), some dirt on the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, and some general smartassery.

HEAVEN DOWN HERE #3 (50 cents from Greg Fasolino, 66-86 80th St., PO Box 158, Middle Village, NY 11379): This NYC-area pfanzone concentrates on straight reviews rather than interviews or articles: live shows, singles, albums & EPs, literature, and most unusually a full page of video reviews. "Alternative music" is the emphasis: "post-punk/punk/pop/hc/whatever" is how this gets defined a bit further in. Nice photos too.

HERETIC'S JOURNAL BULLETIN #4 (FREE from PO Box 12347, Seattle, WA 98111): This journal is part of a search for a "Radical Synthesis", trying to make sense out of human existence by combining bits and pieces of various New Age political and spiritual notions. Ron Heresy has a good feeling for what's happening in the area, and his news reportage and reviews cram a lot of information into the available space. For those interested in pursuing matters more deeply, the HJ FORUM is available for \$3, with apa-like discussion of these same topics.

HIGH STREET ART #3 (50 cents from PO Box 8421, Columbus, OH 43201): Loosely affiliated with TESTUBE (see the AUDIO section of FF) and containing NOW magazine (see below) as an insert, HSA is being put out by people who are trying to encourage an artist's scene around North High Street in Columbus. The lead article in this issue bemoans the fact that not enough people are buying the experimental art they're pushing, which seems to be rather missing the point to me.

HIMALAYAN NEWS Nov.-Dec. 1985 (FREE from Himalayan Institute, RR1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): The Himalayan Institute concentrates on making yoga available to Americans, with classes and retreats at their rural property. They've adapted to modern conditions, bringing biofeedback, stress therapy and other "new age" techniques to their teachings as well as more traditional ideas. The NEWS publishes schedules for all this, as well as vegetarian recipes and Hindu philosophy.

HI-TECH TERROR 5 (\$2.50/yr from Craig Ledbetter, 1 Yorkshire Ct., Richardson, TX 75081): There are a couple of horror-flick zines out there but this is the first one (so far as I know) devoted exclusively to videotapes. This issue reviews four unknown gore/sleaze/horror videos that all have the word "Sisters" in their titles -- unfortunately three of them turned out to be real dogs, and I don't think my local video store carries SWITCHBLADE SISTERS. Also lots of news on upcoming releases, title changes, and so on.

HOMESTEADERS NEWS #49 (\$2.50 from Sherrie & Norm Lee, Naples, NY 14512): Calling itself "The Self-Reliance Magazine", this is the essential reference both for those already homesteading and those of us who hope to do so someday. This issue concentrates on the home-schooling theories of the late John Holt, but also covers gardening, greenhouses, making-do, the elements of surveying and a lot more. S&N have been living on a farm for years, so this isn't just book-knowledge but rather practical hints for success.

IDOMO 18 (The usual, records, tapes from Chuck Connor, c/o Sildan House, Chediston Rd., Wissett, Near Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0NF, ENGLAND): If the post office can't find him, just follow the directions yourself. 82 pages long, this sort of resembles an English FACTSHEET FIVE (higher praise I



cannot give) intermixed with a literary mag that fell through a humor warp on its way to the press. Chuck reviews dozens of fanzines (nearly all British) and intermixes the reviews with fiction that would be hard-pressed to find another market. Of the latter, I particularly liked Willie Smith's "Lack of Communication". I guess this is an English sfzine, but it's not like any other sfzine I've ever seen.

IMPRIMIS Vol. 14 #9 (FREE from Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI 49242): An outreach journal from an independent college which seeks to "foster clear thinking on the problems of our time." This issue features a long article on the decline and fall of American education under the behaviorist influence, together with some thoughts on how to turn things around.

INFINITUM #1 (\$3 from William Doyle, 5737 Louetta Rd., Spring, TX 77379): This semi-pro science fiction zine comes out very well for a first effort. Editor Doyle has collected a nice passle of fiction by some unknowns and embellished it with gems from more established writers like FM Busby, Darrell Schweitzer and Janet Fox. (He may be forgiven for the fact that this is not the original publication of some of these stories; Busby's "A Gun For Grandfather" last appeared in 1957). Of the originals, I particularly liked Marshall Epperson's "The Vega Source", a nice little applied-science story with an unexpected ending twist.

INSIDE JOKE #42 (\$1 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): The "Newsletter of Comedy and Creativity" is still going strong with one of the best bunch of columnists around: Anni Ackner, Ho Chi Zen, Georg Patterson, and Candi Strecker are among the talented regulars in the group. Elayne's writers and artists are an unruly bunch, so it's impossible to describe IJ with any confidence, but there's always something here to laugh and wonder at.

INSTEAD OF A MAGAZINE #37 (\$1.50 or so from Lysander Spooner Society, PO Box 433, Willimantic, CT 06226): IOAM is an anarchist zine (which will come as no surprise to those who know who Lysander Spooner was -- the rest of you should look him up) that has staked out certain issues as being ones for extended consideration. These include Taoism, feminism, and the situation in Northern Ireland. In addition, recent issues have featured a theme of sorts -- this one is mostly about food and farming, the next issue is meant to concentrate on marriage and family life. The Spooners make anarchy accessible on a personal level.

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS (FREE from PO Box 8000, Tyler, TX 75711): They ask \$5 for 6 months, but you can get a look for free. Publishers of a variety of small newsletters: DOMINION STRATEGIES, A Q&A sheet with reference to Biblical economic and other topics; PREFACE 21, book reviews and other news; and CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTION, a straight explanation of doctrine.

INTERNATIONAL GRAFFITI TIMES (\$2 (checks to CASH) from Box 299, Prince St. Station, New York, NY 10012): New York based but with international contacts, this broadside zine features color pictures of subway cars and other graffiti art plus talks with the artists. This issue features a long chat with a couple representatives of the TOP crew, who I gather have been responsible for decorating one hell of a lot of subway cars. IGT is always looking for photos of nifty graffiti from your area, so get in touch.

IRON MOUNTAIN Fall 1985 (\$5 from Artemisia Press, PO Box 2282, Boulder, CO 80306): "A journal of magical religion", this one takes a serious look at the history and current state of the pagan world. The articles tend to be scholarly and footnoted. This issue has Judy Harrow talking about "Small Group Ministry", Chas. Clifton discussing the origins of Gardnerian witchcraft, and a delightful article on "Designing Effective Ritual" by P.E.I. Bonewits, among other things. Definitely a top magazine in the field.

JAG, Vol. 24, #1 (SASE from R.S. Jaggard, MD, 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): Dr. Jaggard is in favor of free enterprise, and he puts his money where his mouth is, by not taking Federal money for treating patients and by publishing occasional broadsides putting forth his positions. In general, he presents a spirited defense of the free market, and JAG is often inspirational reading.

JEREMIAH Vol. 1 #2 (\$2.50 from EMCE, PO Box T, Crugers, NY 10521): Subtitled "I'm Mad as Hell", this is a wistful look back at the good old days and is apparently going to develop into an indictment of the bad new

days. This issue is dedicated to proving that the good old days were in fact better than today is, and that it's not just a trick of memory.

JERSEY BEAT #24 (\$5/6 issues from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): JB concentrates mainly on local Jersey bands, where there is a lot of talent yet waiting to be discovered. In this issue they throw caution to the winds and talk about bands they're personal friends of, like the dBs and Editor Testa's own LOVE PUSHERS (now defunct). Fortunately the articles still manage to be as objective as any other pfanzone piece. Also the usual reviews, ranging from heavy metal to mod to neo-psychedelia; this is one of the few zines where punk and pop come together so nicely. (Also see the MUSIC section in this issue of FF for another JB project).

THE JUSTICE ADVOCATE (SASE for info to PO Box 19523, Denver, CO 80219): TJA are sort of a clearing house for information on how to defend oneself (or have oneself defended) in Federal court, mostly on IRS prosecutions. They offer quite a variety of research briefs, legal documents, and cassette tapes of actual proceedings for the person in trouble with the Feds. Material ranges from short summaries to full-blown packages of motions ready to be filed with the court.

KAMIKAZE #13 (50 cents (?) from Chris Estey, W. 2005 4th #4, Spokane, WA 99204): This pfanzone is mainly concerned with making snotty remarks about the gal that the editor caught some form of the clap from. Amongst this there is a batch of other adolescent bullshit, plus a few scarce thoughts on music & partying.

KICK IT OVER #14 (\$1.50 from PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2 CANADA): KIO covers a variety of anarchist and fellow-traveler news, with a wide variety of viewpoints. We have, for example, Vi Subversa (punker) and Murray Bookchin (social ecologist) in the same zine. An article on Sexual Anarchy and a call for ending pornography make another interesting pair. There's a lot of good analysis here of issues often taken for granted in the movement, and new issues seldom discussed, rather than more plowing of already-stale ground. KIO always enrages me, but it also makes me think.

KITCHEN SINK: Mine needs a new washer installed on the hot water faucet. It would also help if someone would offer to come over and do the dishes more often.



LESBIAN CONNECTION Vol. 8 #1 (\$2 donation from Elsie Publishing Institute, PO Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48823): Just what it says, a networking zine for lesbians. Features a few pages of news, various contacts, and letters commenting on various topics of interest to the readership. The cost is variable depending on what you can afford.

THE LETTER EXCHANGE #7 (\$2.50 from Steve Sikora, PO Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706): From humble beginnings this has grown into a vibrant network of correspondents, eager to write to almost anyone. The heart of LE is a series of blind listings from people desiring correspondence, together with instructions for getting in touch via their forwarding service. I've struck gold a number of times through this procedure, and it's amazing how many folks are eager to keep the art of letter-writing alive. If you're one of them, this zine is a must.

LGLC NEWSLETTER #12 (\$15/yr from 1800 Market St. #210, San Francisco, CA 94102): That's the Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns. This issue features reporting on their first national convention, plus "Not Just

"AIDS Article", detailing promising drugs that the FDA is as yet keeping off the market, but which are available elsewhere -- some as close as Mexico. The combination of political and sexual freedom seems to be a natural one.

LIGHT ON THE PATH, Dec. 1985 (\$1 from Brotherhood of the White Temple, PO Box 966, Castle Rock, CO 80104): The BWT seems to be a mystical study group, and this is their equivalent of a church bulletin. (mimeographed, folded and stapled, it even looks like one). Consists of a series of articles on topics such as "The Path to Universal Consciousness" and "Buddha and his Teachings".

LIST OF HERESIES (Osterhus Publishing House, 4500 W. Broadway, Minneapolis, MN 55422): This wonderful little tract lists all of the things that the Roman Catholic church has done over the past 2 millenia that the author feels are not in tune with the gospels. These include confession, fasting, and the Papacy itself. They'll sell you 100 copies for \$3.90, so an SASE ought to get you one.

THE LITTLEST UNICORN Yule 1985 (\$7/yr from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): From the same people who publish THE UNICORN (see below) comes this pagan zine aimed at children. Intended to "inform and delight", it consists of stories, poems, artwork and bits of pagan lore, scaled down to simple words for young minds. Mainly playful instead of dogmatic.

LIVING FREE #32 (\$1.50 from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): LF's focus might be called applied libertarianism, if one could get rid of the political connotations of the term. Jim discusses ways to live freely today, without changing the world. Vonu is a big topic here. Even bigger is self-sufficiency, making do, recycling -- what some have called urban vonu. In any case, it seems a realistic approach to improving one's life, and LF is a good source of helpful ideas.

THE LOG CABIN #80 (\$1 from Louisa Poulin, Siler Rt., Boc 394, Winchester, VA 22601): This is the newsletter of the Mensa Back-to-the-land Special Interest Group. It's conducted somewhat like an apa, with the individual members writing in with news and ideas each issue. Usual topics include gardening, farm animals, and building. With a number of members already on the farm and more planning to move there, the SIG can provide a lot of tested, practical knowledge when it's needed.

LOST & FOUND TIMES 17/18 (\$10/5 issues from Luna Bisonte Productions, 137 Leland Ave., Columbus, OH 43214): A zine of mainly poetry from all over. Some of the more linear poems appeal to me -- Paul Weinman's POODLE STRUT and Gary Duehr's TESTING TESTING are in this category. They stand out particularly since they're compared to a lot of experimental stuff, right down to half a page of mixed letters and punctuation with no words at all submitted by John Bennett. Also a few pictures and a short story or two.

THE LOUIE REPORT #1 (SASE (?) from PO Box 2430, Santa Clara, CA 95055-2430): This is, very simply, a magazine that will attempt to "organize and log all activities related to Richard Berry's classic melody, LOUIE, LOUIE". If that's your bag, send them a bit of cash to cover printing costs and get on the mailing lists. Doctoral Theses in Popular Culture have been made of less than this...

MAGGOT SANDWICH COOK BOOK 38 (SASE from Vik Kaos, PO Box 9391, Pensacola, FL 32513): A pñanzine dedicated to making fools of people or, failing that, of itself. Editor Kaos offers to teach anyone the secrets of hardcore concert promoting, interviews the Dead Karen Carpenters, and prints ads for all sorts of records lacking any socially redeeming features. Hardcore hilarity.

MALLIFE 8 (\$1.97 from PO Box 1393, Tempe, AZ 85281): From the wonderful folks at Bomb Shelter propaganda, this started out as a magazine devoted to mails and by extension to all of plastic American life. By now the latter aspect has become dominant and the mail artists have invaded, taking over the pages of MALLIFE with strange graphics and twisted, half-incoherent words. A showcase of mail art. Particular kudos to the spread from the National Typeface Wrestling Association.

THE MEMORY HOLE #9 (\$2 from PO Box 94, Long Beach, CA 90801-0094): This is the "Revisionist History APA", dedicated to truth, justice, and debunking

the Holocaust. Actually, the Holocaust Revisionism seems to be dying down lately and the discussion is becoming more far-ranging. For those who don't know, Historical Revisionism is the rewriting of history on the grounds that the Establishment lied the first time around. Unfortunately too often this results in theorizing in advance of the facts and a lack of rigor.

METAL MANIA #15 (\$1.50 from Ron Quintana, 4340 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94114): This photo-packed newsprint pfnzine has only one thing on its mind: Heavy Metal. This means that there are a lot of pictures of teenaged boys in leather jackets with angular guitars. It also means a lot of live reviews, some record reviews, and interviews with the articulate Heavy Metallics that the editors were able to find. Either you like it or you don't.

META-SCOOP Vol. 2 #12 (\$10/yr from 1004 Live Oak Ln., Arlington, TX 76012): M-S is devoted to exploring reality, particularly those parts of it ignored by the Establishment press. This being the Christmas issue, they discuss the esoteric facts behind the Magi, give a history of the non-denominational Chapel of Light, and send Season's Greetings to their readers. Other topics include a discussion of Holism and an announcement of a workshop on astral projection and OBEs.

MINICOMICS

These little things can be fun as a quick bit of loving art and a small story. Try these efforts from the past quarter:

AAAAA COMIX (50 cents and a stamp from C.E. Emmer, 2910 W. Ashland Ave., Muncie, IN 47304): Strangely disjointed one-panel gags (ambiguous word deliberately chosen by reviewer). Worth buying for the pic of your mother's soul if nothing else.

ADVENTURES IN THE MIRE (50 cents + 22 cents postage from Carah Productions, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): Sarah Folkman demonstrates a nice pointillist shading style in this somewhat downbeat look at life in general.

CHEAPSKATE COMIX #1 (10 cents + a stamp from C.E. Emmer, 2910 W. Ashland Ave., Muncie, IN 47304): Half the size of a standard mini, this one still packs four strips in its 16 pages. They tend to be a bit, well, surreal, but what do you expect for a dime?

KAVED-IN COMICS (50 cents from David Steinlicht, PO Box 3154, Minneapolis, MN 55403): A two-story minicomic. The first, "Dreams from the Bathroom Floor", is a terrifying story of too much beer. The second, "Dangerous Gunplay", is artistically interesting but has an inscrutable plot.

PEACE OIL FOR A RAT BRAIN COMICS #3 (25 cents + 22 cents postage from Carah Productions, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): Cats, skulls, and punk rock are the main obsessions of Carrie, who does most of this one. I loved the 8-panel "Brief Punk Rock History of Greg".

URBAN MUTATION (25 cents + 22 cents postage from Carah Productions, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): Brief, disturbing, sketchy punk rock imagery.

FUDGONG FUNNIES #4 (50 cents from J.P. Morgan, PO Box 78, Keansburg, NJ 07734): JP draws hilarious single-panel cartoons and has a mind like a plate of cyanide-laced spaghetti. This issue looks into such religious subjects as "Moses Parts His Hair" and the creation of pizza.

Those interested in this artform should also check out the review of FAN'TOONS in the regular zine section.

MISERY (\$1 from Bloody Mess Publications, 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): This is the 9th pfnzine from Mr. Mess, but he's been changing the title every time to keep us on our toes. Bloody puts out raw-edged ultra-punk fanzines, the sort your mother tried to keep you from reading a few years ago. This issue features a long phone interview with Wendy O. Williams, news about GG Allin & the Scumfucs, and the updated listing of live tapes that Bloody has for sale. Definitely get in touch if you're interested in taped live shows.

THE MONTHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE TIMES JOURNAL POST GAZETTE NEWS CHRONICLE BULLETIN #36 (SASE from T.S. Child, 2510 Bancroft Way #207, Berkeley, CA 94704): This little gem of humor is somewhat shorter than its name, but just as fun. This issue features a strange little play with more stage directions than dialogue, a few cartoons, and a Christmas story by Denver Tucson that is destined never to be made into a TV movie.

MOSCOW GRAFFITI MAGAZINE (SASE from Richard A., PO Box 20722, New York, NY 10009): MGM is a series of single sheet broadsides containing thoughts on the world and the way it's run. Current issue includes the story of the softdrink New Ope, plus the following: "All drugs are placebos. Laboratory animals act up under the influence because they think it will get them more money and food. So-called junkies are really spending all their money on clothes and nightclub admission."

MURDERER'S WORK #2 (SASE from Jake Berry, 501 N. Pine #2, Florence, AL 35630): A single-sheet poetry and art experiment. Jake is looking for people to help in his goal of "assassinating a culture nerve by nerve page by page". A sample from one of the poems herein: "We peeled the junkies blood/ from the ground/For future visions of utopia". The art seems to be mainly computer graphics.

MY WIFE #5 (\$1/3 issues from Burl Gilyard, PO Box 19012, Minneapolis, MN 55419): "The Newsletter of Music & Buttocks" features an attack on Monty Python syncophants, a report on the editor's visit to England ("I stood on the banks of the Mersey and thought to myself, 'Jesus, this town is a toilet.'"), record reviews, and more crude words and offensive gestures than you can shake a stick at. But what's the point of all the Bob Dylan adulation?

NADA #1 (\$10/yr from PO Box 18144, Denver, CO 80218): Successor to the now-defunct DER MODERNE TIMES, NADA is a zine of the general Denver art and music scene. In this issue we find Divine, Husker Du., satirical notes on the Springsteen phenomenon, an article on the PMRC and lots more. In tabloid format and free around town, NADA manages to put together a variety of interesting stuff with some nice cartoons and other graphics, as well as a schedule of coming dates and the "Top 50" list that helped make DMT what it was. (#3, Forced Exposure; #10, The Invaders; #35, Walls of Genius; #50, Swans).

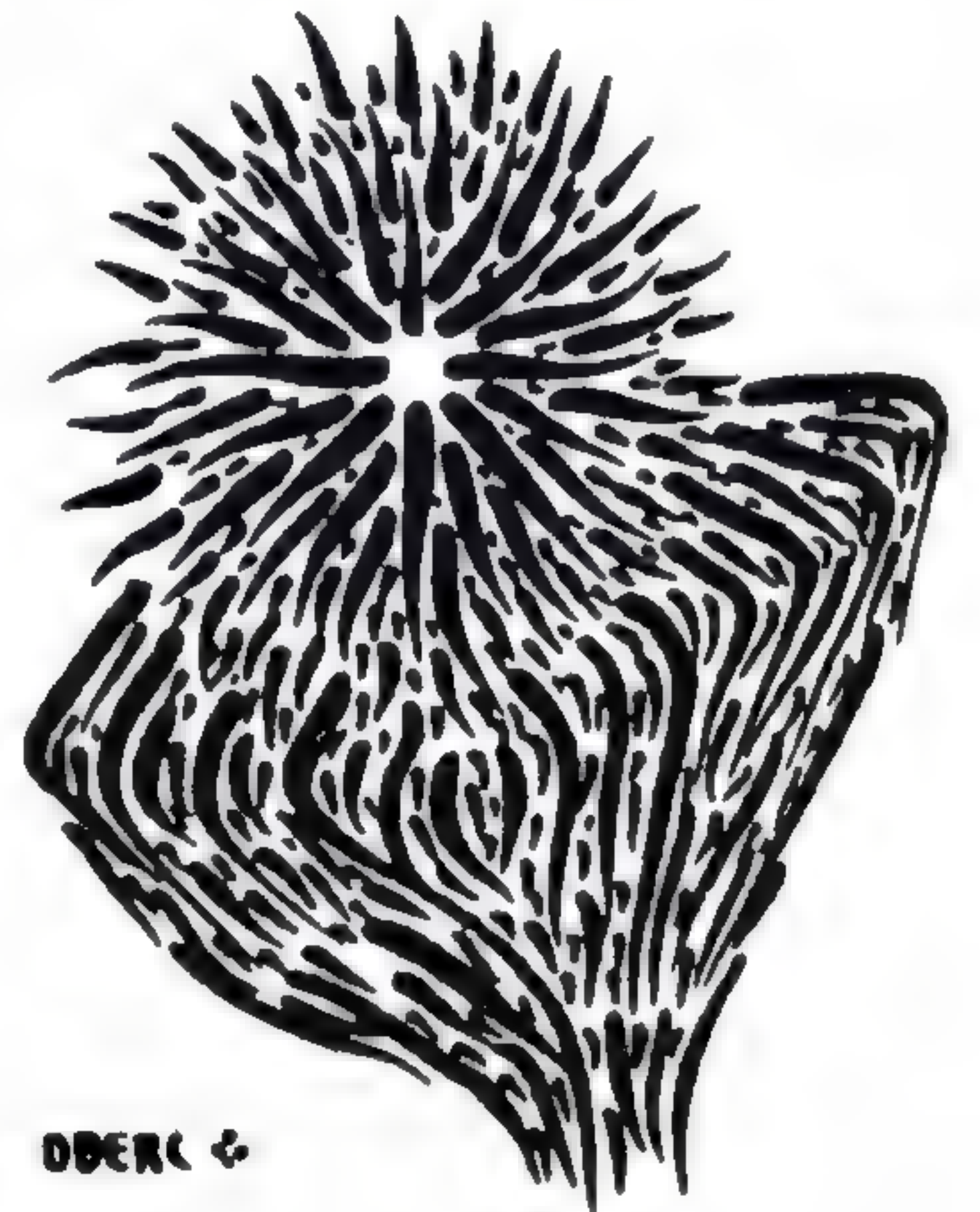
NANCY'S MAGAZINE (\$1 from 2269 Market Box 241, San Francisco, CA 94114): I am constantly amazed by the breadth of coverage of this fun little number. Who else could write pages of entertaining stuff about polyester, complete with fabric samples? Other features include a long and thoughtful article on haiku, a mood dot (this is the "Mood Issue") and a report on the Basenji, a barkless breed of dog. All this is intermingled with little drawings, knitting instructions, recipes, quizzes, whatever. More nifty stuff than I can possibly describe, so just buy a copy, OK?

THE NATIONAL BOYCOTT NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #3 (50 cents from 6506 28th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98115): This tabloid reports in factual terms on all of the current boycotts that their editors have been able to find information on. More importantly, they also publish sources of alternative goods (where do you get light bulbs if you're boycotting GE?), replies from the corporations concerned, and in-depth research on the circumstances leading to boycotts. They don't endorse any actions, but they do present all the facts for the concerned consumer.

NATIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION (SASE to Suite 1020, The Heritage Building, Annandale, VA 22003): These folks are a tax-exempt public trust dedicated to helping individuals set up charitable foundations of their own. They supply a form to fill out and require \$100 worth of donations to get the ball rolling. It doesn't say so anyplace, but this sure smells like a tax scam to me.

N D S (\$2 from PO Box 4144, Austin, TX 78765): "Contact Exchange Document", it says on the back -- this is sort of a generalized networking effort for experimental artists. Interview with and booklet on Andre Stitt, an Irish "performance artist"; interview with experimental filmmaker Kurt Kren, a discography from Australia's SEVERED HEAD, plus announcements of upcoming mail art shows, record and tape reviews, and contact addresses. Start here and explore as far as you dare.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS Nov. 1985 (\$2 from Center for Neighborhood



Technology, 570 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60606): This is a monthly for people interested in keeping their neighborhoods from becoming part of an anonymous city. Articles on things like linked development, vacant lot gardening, and local Chicago politics. I'd tell you more, but the Post Office gutted my copy.

NEOLOGY Vol. 10 #4/5 (\$1 from ESFACAS, PO Box 4071, Edmonton, AB, T6E 4S8 CANADA): This stanzone comes to use from the Edmonton SF and Comic Art Society, and proves that the traditional art of the mimeograph is not yet dead. The look of this zine is striking, featuring photos, multiple colors and lots of artwork. The contents are pretty good too. Regular columns on new RPG releases, convention reports, fanzine reviews, and the inevitable letters. Of special note is the growing contact of the ESCAFAS with a Russian SF club.

NEOPHYTES #3 (\$1 from Nancy Pope, RR #7, Box 22, Anderson, IN 46011): This is a magazine for "new and lesser known poets". The names and addresses of all the poets are published, and comments are encouraged from all. As one might expect, I found the offerings here to be a mixed bag, but there were a couple of standouts. Bernard Hewitt's "Valley of Flowers" captures an emotion in fewer words than I would have expected, and does it well; Charlotte Deskins' "Margot at the Mall" is an interesting exploration of the psychology of shopping, with fine-crafted imagery.

A NEW IRON COLUMN #7 (\$2 from 1728 W. Ball Rd. #4, Anaheim, CA 92801): Publication of the Creative Anarchists Networks, ANIC has been growing by leaps and bounds. This 64-page digest is crammed with articles on current happenings, anarcho-graphics, and ideological analyses. Lots of info on things like Native American affairs and the situation in Northern Ireland, animal rights, nuclear war, and so on. Also contains historical features on little-known ideological forebears of the current anarchist movement -- Durutti in this issue. On top of everything else, their printer has improved vastly, and the whole issue is very easy to read.

NIRVANA #1 (39 cents postage from PO Box 2184, Castro Valley, CA 94546): This is a small publication concerned with animal rights, the politics of food, and related issues. The staff argues for an interrelated view of diverse phenomena such as African starvation, American factory farming, and the lab animal controversy. Factual articles in a non-hysterical tone coupled with a number of contact addresses make this a reasonable point to start looking into the field.

NO GOVERNOR #8 (\$2 from Robert Shea, PO Box 319, Glencoe, IL 60022): That's THE Bob Shea, co-author of the ILLUMINATUS! trilogy, and this "zine of Illuminated Anarchism" is his attempt to continue spreading subversive ideas among the youth of America. Bob is following the trail of a humanistic form of anarchism, and the letter column is heating up in an interesting discussion of what this might be. This issue also features Robert Anton Wilson discoursing on How to Read and Neal Wilgus reviewing the corpus of books published by Loompanics.

NO MAGAZINE #1 (\$2 from Brad Johnson & Ann Meyer, 826 W. Belmont #3F, Chicago, IL 60657): This is a chapbook-like collection of poetry, with a little prose thrown in. I really liked the two poems from Brigitte Pavich, who gets to the core of sexual stereotypes and puts a knife through their hearts. Most of the rest of these are downbeat pieces on city life, and leave me pretty cold, with the possible exception of editor Johnson's own tale of anomie.

THE NOISE #45 (\$8/vr from T. Max, 74 Jamaica St., J.P., Boston, MA 02130): This pianzine gives you more Boston rock news than you ever thought possible. Each issue leads off with a few pages of gossip, a fun way to work into the articles that follow, which mainly concentrate on bands: Pajama Slave Dancers, Swinging Erudites and local faves Throwing Muses (among others) grace this issue. Lately THE NOISE seems to be getting even better graphically, with cartoons and drawings to complement the wonderful photos they're already famous for.

NOMOS Nov.-Dec. 1985 (\$3 from 9857 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60643): "Nomos" is the ancient Greek for "law or custom", with the understanding that these are the customs that spontaneously arise to maintain order among men. NOMOS (the magazine) is dedicated to maintaining and extending this order, although they are not hardcore "natural law" fanatics. The magazine is a collection of essays, poems, and other writings that explore the concept of law and order in a way that is both thoughtful and entertaining.

articles in a pro, slick-cover zine. They've sponsored major open debates on things like national defense, print thoughtful articles on things like alternative education and revitalizing America's farms, and provide many contacts with other libertarians. *****

NON-STOP BANTER Vol. 1 #4 (\$1 from Debbie Novak, 16700 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462): This pfanzone has developed an extremely clean, professional look and concentrates on bands rather than shows or records. (There are record reviews, but they stick to way-off-the-beaten-track stuff). Major coverage in this issue of Naked Raygun, Beat Rodeo, Replacements and yetanother Black Flag interview. *****

NOTES Vol. 1 #3 (\$1 or The Usual from Sam Helm, 495 W. 186th St., Apt. 5-E, New York, NY 10033): This sfanzine started out as Sam's diary, but along the way it's added a lot of other features: columns from Jeff Grimshaw and Anni Ackner, fanzine reviews, lots of letters from various fen, and even a bit of artwork (he's looking for more, artists). The diary is still here, too, only a year out of date to protect the guilty. Sam writes well of life under the influence of many strange thoughts. *****

NOTMEMO #45 (SASE from Vinnie Bartilucci, 45 Newburgh St., Elmont, NY 11003): The Occasionally Right Reverend Etc. Bartilucci discourses knowledgeably on SubGenius dogma issues of interest to us all. Contains exhortations to the faithful, warnings to the Pinks, clear and confusing graphics -- in short, the trappings we have come to expect of Initiates of the Church. For the Faithful ONLY. *****

NOVUS #29 (\$1.50 from SoundScapes, PO Box 152, Honolulu, HI 96810): A slick pfanzone in the best local-music tradition, NOVUS is fortunate in having the really traditional forms of Hawaiian music to draw upon as well as more modern stuff. Where else do you find a guy with a ukelele on one page and a guy with an electric guitar on the next? The usual format is interviews followed by reviews, but surprises can and do pop up; articles on the NY Garage Scene and Concert T-Shirts grace this issue. *****

NOW! #4 (SASE from PO Box 436, New Philadelphia, OH 44663): This is a music and art tabloid for the Ohio-Pennsylvania area, though it features scene reports from as far away as San Diego. Some of the same stuff you find in pfanzones -- reviews and show reports -- plus a poetry column, nice graphics, and film thoughts. Small but looking for more writers. *****

NU RITE #1 (\$1 from PO Box 25719, Raleigh, NC 27611): This is a strange anti-political poster with articles on the back, with the most space being allotted to movie reviews. There's also a few other odds and ends, including an article on the KKK that's been widely reprinted in the underground press. Despite all the words, this one seems to be mostly a graphics design project. Judged on that basis, it's reasonably good. As writing...it needs some direction, to say the least. *****

OBJEKT #20 (\$1.50 from PO Box 967, Eureka, CA 95502): Published by the same folks behind Ladd/Frith Tapes, this pfanzone concentrates on the new and innovative in music, although they're well aware of the roots of what they're doing, as the list of "Greatest Music of All Time" in this issue shows. Reviews, lyrics, innovative cassette notes -- an article on how to prepare your cassettes for airplay, for example. Also interesting ads and international contacts. *****

OCTAGRAM #5 (\$1.50 from Maia Cowan, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013): A sfanzine made up entirely of book reviews, on the theory that other sfanzines don't talk about the field nearly enough (which is by and large true). Maia is a good reviewer, giving a feel for the tone and strengths of the various authors without giving away vital plot information. No price listed, and availability is dubious, but if she's out that buck and a half is enough to get you a copy of the latest LAN'S LANTERN, another sfanzine published from the same address. *****

OPTION F2 (\$2.50 from PO Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049): Having abandoned the alphabetical issue idea except for the numbering, OPTION is moving out of the shadow of the late great OP magazine and establishing itself as a more professional presence in the new music scene. The 82 closely-printed pages contain information on hundreds of groups, with styles ranging from jazz forward and outward to experimental music and punk. Along with all the short reviews are major articles: a representative sampling from this issue is impossible because of the eclecticism, but the

include coverage of F/1, Carla Bley, Peruvian music, Poison Girls, and Screamin' Jay Hawkins. So comprehensive as to overflow anyone's musical choices. OPTION remains one of the best reviews of the independent recording scene.

OUR GENERATION Vol. 16 #3-4 (\$7.95 from Journals Dept., University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin St., Downsview, ONT M3H 5T8 CANADA): A very impressive libertarian socialist/anarchist journal concentrating on critical analysis towards developing "a warless and classless society of self-determining communities, and communally rooted, autonomous individuals". The quality of analysis here is exceedingly high, with J. Frank Harrison's "Culture and Coercion", a penetrating analysis of our control by the press and political discourse, being the high point. While the articles have explicitly Canadian content, their underlying themes are applicable everywhere. At 130 pages, this digest is a fair-sized book; I'm impressed with the idea of it being a quarterly.

OUTER SHELL #4 (SASE from PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): Fine-print single-sheet pfanzone. In this issue we have a rundown on life in the Tampa Bay area, Shane Williams on the state of live music at Leavenworth (dismal), some record reviews, a look at a local topless bar, and editor Roy Harper's pick hits of 1985. A lot of coverage in a small space.

OVERTHROW Vol. 7 #3 (\$1 from PO Box 392, Canal St. Station, New York, NY 10013): Tabloid still being put out by the Yippies. They cover all sorts of news not often found in your local paper: The trial of the NY 8+, the Nazi connections of White House staffers, the suppression of Ibogaine research, things like that. Although their worldview sometimes inclines towards the conspiratorial, OVERTHROW is still a great source for a wealth of anti-Establishment information.

PAGAN PARENTS' LEAGUE NEWSLETTER #5 (Donation from PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706): A resource for the pagan parent trying to raise kids in our non-pagan society. Contains leads to other sources (kid's books, other pagan zines) and discussion of heavy questions ranging from the presence of children at Ritual to whether public schooling is appropriate for pagan children.

PC NEWSLETTER 8 (\$1 from 1725 E. 115 St., Cleveland, OH 44106): PC is Pollution Control, which started out as a way to distribute independent music to independent radio stations (they still do this, and labels should definitely get in touch). They've grown into one hell of a networking publication for the rest of us, reviewing publications and giving addresses for other interesting organizations. They also have published articles dealing with royalties, cassette use, and computing for musicians, among other things.

PHALLOS, Dec. 1985 (\$5/yr from St. Priapus Church, 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): This is the publication of a bona-fide, tax-deductible church that concentrates on reaching gay men and women with their message of salvation through sex. Also associated with the church is the Gay Rescue Mission, which distributes food to the homeless. PHALLOS is their outreach organ, with testimonials and church news. Not for the prudish.

THE PHOENIX Dec. 1985 (\$12/yr from 6600 Logan Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55423): "Health and Recovery News", THE PHOENIX is primarily concerned with those recovering (or trying to recover) from alcoholism or addiction to other drugs, but also covers other facets of good health. Stories of personal lives, medical news, book reviews, thoughts on sexual abuse and therapy fill this tabloid.

PIONEER 273-277 (\$2 from Paul Doerr, PO Box 1064, Suisun, CA 94585): For that price you get 98 pages of PIONEER reprints -- the catch is that they're on microfiche. PIONEER was a journal of survivalism, for the most part, with ideas on how to be self-sufficient in the wilderness, apocalyptic worries, and political thoughts. Undated issues, but from context I'd say these issues are from the late sixties or early seventies. A real bargain IF you have some way to view these (readers can be purchased for \$5 and up).

PLAYLISTS

There are a couple of college radio stations offering copies of their playlists to interested listeners. Generally they're available for an

SASE and useful for keeping track of new music. The ones I'm getting are from:

KALX, University of California at Berkeley, 94720
KZSC, University of California at Santa Cruz, 95064

If you're interested in independent radio, be sure to check out the ever-useful PC NEWSLETTER also.

POPULAR REALITY #10 (25 cents from PO Box 3402, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): Journal of the "ShiMo Underground". PopReal is at the heart of a nascent conspiracy to overthrow consensus society and replace it with something more fun. Drawing from a horde of SubGenial, Discordian and just plain crazy writers, editor Crowbar presents a variety of dangerous information each issue. For example, there's a review of a GG Allin (the disgusto-boy of punk rock) show, a presentation of the plot to tie up Falwell's Fones, news on the upcoming Haymarket Anarchist Conference, Rock Island Arsenal blockade news, and lots more in this one issue. This tabloid could end up being at the heart of the next great populist movement in this country.

POSTWAR (Contribution from PO Box 6613, Fullerton, CA 92631): This anti-war, anti-system group puts out a variety of posters, handbills and pamphlets as the spirit moves them. One nice recent item was the pic of our dear president on his ranch, captioned "COWBOY Reagan, fascist gun in the west." That ought to give you some idea of their politics. Send a buck or two for some thought-provoking stuff.

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 3 #3 (\$6/6 issues from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): This libertarian pub takes a marketing approach towards freedom: instead of arguing for libertarian policy on moral grounds, they try to show just how the average Joe would benefit from a reduced level of government. They also devote time to just how government can be privatized, with current debate centering around the possibility of national defense by private concerns. They also carry news of interest to libertarians, such as the story on Brazil selling off 100 government agencies to raise cash.

PSYCHEDLIC MONOGRAPHS AND ESSAYS #1 (\$5 from Thomas Lyttle, PO Box 7244, Naples, FL 33940): Successor to the late, lamented PSYCHOZOIC PRESS, this is devoted to the study of entheogens (psychedelics, hallucinogens) and their uses. Articles in this issue discuss the "ADAM" (MDMA) experience, a series of Tarot meditations, notes on Argyreia Nervosa and a primer on harvesting and storing mushrooms. There are also book reviews and a lively and informative letter column. An excellent resource for anyone dabbling in this area.

PUKE ON THE WORLD #14 (SASE from 3133 Harriet Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55408): Two-sheet humorous zine with something to offend nearly everybody. The regular features have been honed to perfection: "My Drunken Opinions" by Ed Asshole; Ask Dr. Mo', who gives back strange and perverted advice; and the cartoon story of Pigmoid, the boy who thinks he's a nuthatch. Also features a serial about a guy who turned into a penis and various cartoons and splunge.

THE PV NETWORK NEWS (\$15/yr from Rt. 2, Box 274, Santa Fe, NM 87501): This one is for folks who are interested in using solar photovoltaic power right now. Subscription includes membership in the PV Network, which makes you eligible for bulk discounts on some PV products. The NEWS provides information on new products, wholesale and retail dealers, discussion of the economics of PV, and of course information on the Bulk Buys when they come around. Lots of solid practical know-how is involved here, and the folks at the core of the PV Network have been using solar power for years.

PWA COALITION NEWSLINE #5 (Donation from PWAC, PO Box 197, Ansonia Stn., New York, NY 10156): That stands for People With AIDS (or AIDS-related



CREATURE ATTEMPTING TO
EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM
THE ARTISTS SIGNATURE
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conditions) and this is essentially a support group newsletter, loosely affiliated with the group Gay Men's Health Crisis. Contains ideas on alternative therapies, different views on the medical research, and most of all support from and for people affected by AIDS, whether they be patients, parents or friends.

RANDOM WRITINGS #4 (\$1 CASH; \$2 CHECK/MO from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Thoughts on various issues, mostly with a libertarian/political flavour. The lead article in this issue is about the possibility of founding a libertarian community somewhere in the US, either from scratch or by taking over an existing town. This project has popped up from time to time before, but there are some indications that the time may be ripe, and Jim is canvassing for interest. The Ethiopian famine and use of nuclear weapons are also discussed.

RAUNCH-O-RAMA INFORMATION SHEET #5 (SASE from Brad Goins, PO Box 2432, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): This single-sheeter pfanzone was not originally intended to be devoted solely to industrial and other "noise" music, but it seems to be evolving in that direction. For a switch this issue leads off with a piece on the new Shockabilly record, but then we get Dr. Rauncher's Christmas Quickies, featuring killer tunes to disturb anyone, and more on Belgian artist Alain Neffe. Brad's contacts and experience in the area are quite good, and I look for this one to take off when it finds its market.

(R)EVOLUTION #1 (Donation from PO Box 306, Onondaga Hill Stn., Syracuse, NY 13215): At 80 full-sized pages, this is an impressive first issue. Billing itself as "A journal of 21st Century Thought", this is an outgrowth of an anarchist study group that's apparently not taken a narrow view of the world. Spotlights in this issue are writing from Emma Goldman, Peter Kropotkin, and Aleister Crowley, together with brief reviews, contact addresses and a long and thoughtful editorial on where the world seems headed in the next 15 years. With plans for a network of alternative pubs and possibly even computer linkages, (R)EVOLUTION could become an important new intellectual resource for anti-authoritarians and New Agers of all stripes.

RIDING THE BLINDS #5 (\$1 from Richard Lopez, 1424 N. Concord Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454): This pfanzone is heavy on interviews (Blood on the Saddle, Raunch Hands, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Sorry and more) but editor Lopez promises format changes for the coming year. This zine explores things like bluegrass and country more than any other I know; indeed, they're planning more coverage of "real American roots music, as the gutbucket blues, mountain music, black R&B and gospel rarely are given the kind of coverage they deserve." Should be an interesting fusion.

ROCK & ROLL CONFIDENTIAL #32 (\$18/yr from PO Box 1073, Maywood, NJ 07607): If you're tired of trying to figure out what happened to the music news that used to be in ROLLING STONE, it's time to subscribe to RRC. 8 pages of solid information with a minimum of editorial intrusion and absolutely no fluff in every issue. RRC keeps track of things like the home taping hearings, instances of censorship, and the alleged rise of Jesus Rock, as well as noting new and unusual music that deserves a listen.

THE RUBBER FANZINE V. 1 #1 (\$1 from Rudi Rubberoid, PO Box 2432, Bellingham, WA 98227-2432): Never mind any dirty thoughts you might be having, this one is devoted entirely to rubber-stamp artwork. Despite this being a first issue, Rudi has come up with art from a bunch of artists, all working in the medium of mixed rubber stamps on small canvases. A fun change from other types of mail art.

THE RUNESTONE #54 (\$9/yr from Asatru Free Assembly, PO Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024): A journal devoted to the ancient Norse religion. Articles on Ragnarok and what to do about it, Norse architecture, thoughts on a separatist community, Norse myth and mystery, and lots more. AFA also sells tapes, posters and books, and is trying to raise money to buy a piece of land for a permanent Asatru retreat.

SALLY'S DREAMZINE Vol. 1 #1 (22 cents postage (?) from 104 1/2 E. Kirkwood #21, Bloomington, IN 47401): Sally's Dream is a four-piece all-female band, and this zine is a quickie bit of publicity for them. Short bios of the band members, a show review, and a couple of photos make up the package.

SAMISDAT Vol. 44 #3 (\$15/500 pages from Merritt Clifton, PO Box 129, Richford, VT 05476): To grossly oversimplify, SAMISDAT is Merritt's literary review zine. But wait: he also publishes the best stories and poems he finds in the "litmags", as well as art. He fills the rest of the zine with reviews and personal thoughts, from a generally ecologically-minded point of view. That's a regular issue. In between, he puts out chapbooks -- that's why you subscribe by the number of pages. Between the last two issues of SAMISDAT proper, there were chapbooks by Paul Shuttleworth, Dorothy Jo Schaper, Paul Weinman, Peter Desy, Miriam Sagan, and Katharine Privett. If you want to keep track of the litmag world, particularly the poetry end of things, you're in the wrong place. You should be reading SAMISDAT instead of FACTSHEET FIVE.

SAND CASTLES #1 (\$1 or The Usual from Vicki Rosenzweig, 39 Lynwood Place, apt. 3, New Haven, CT 06511): This is Vicki's attempt to break into the sfanzine world with a small but pleasant zine of personal writing. In this first issue she discusses underachievement as a way of life, the contrast between NYC and New Haven, the difference between fans and other people, and the advantages of letters over phone calls. Vicki writes well, and is looking for contributions, "preferably personal commentary on life, fandom, or whatever strikes your fancy", as well as art.

SCHISM #11 (22 cents postage from Janet Janet, 135 Cole St., San Francisco, CA 94117): This one will make the most sense to those familiar with Neoism as promoted by SMILE magazine -- the rest of you can just wonder what this listing of past and future movements in the art world is meant to accomplish. Confusion at a reasonable price.

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #57 (\$2.50 from Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211): This sfanzine has won multiple Hugo awards, and it's easy to see why: SFR is big, it's about SF, and it looks better than the average zine. Most of the 48 pages of this issue is made up of reviews -- of books, short stories, fanzines -- but there are also a few fairly serious articles as well as personal writings by REG. Well worth reading if you're afraid you've missed some good SF lately -- rest assured that one of the reviewers here has picked it up.

SCP NEWSLETTER Vol. 11 #2 (Donation from PO Box 4308, Berkeley, CA 94704): SCP stands for "Spiritual Counterfeits Project". What these folks do is present the teachings of various groups, for the express purpose of comparing them with evangelical Christianity and showing where the other folks went wrong. This issue, for example, is devoted to explaining and demolishing tantra. I'm not sure the presentation is unbiased, and in any case, this strikes me as an incredibly arrogant approach to the problems of competing philosophical systems.

SFEAR 2 (The Usual from Steve George, 642 Ingersoll St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 2J4, CANADA): This sfanzine is about 11 months later than planned, but what the hell, there's a good review of FF inside. Besides the fanzine reviews, Steve also provides some thoughts on current SF writing, an essay by Tim Ender on the similarities between rugby and SF, and letters on the long-lost SFEAR 1.

SHAVERTRON #24 (\$3 from Rich Toronto, PO Box 248, Vallejo, CA 94590): This zine does its best to keep alive the Shaver Mystery, a factual or fictional theory that first surfaced in SF mags in the 1940's, postulating secret underground civilizations, brain-altering rays and other stuff as a way to explain the world. A mix of classic reprints, plus new stuff from UFOlogists and folks such as Dr. Jan Pajak, who has designed a flying saucer ("magnocraft"). The best part is the entertaining letter column, conducted with a healthy dose of skepticism.

SHOOT! #11 (\$2 (?) from Carol Schneck, PO Box 101, East Lansing, MI 48823): With this issue SHOOT may have wandered into the realm of mail art. The whole thing is a collage of different things, shipped looseleaf in a big envelope: bits of other fanzines, blank paper, ads, school notes, yarn, crosswords, book pages... "No 2 issues alike!" says the editor, except for the few pages of cartoons at the front.

SINISTER WISDOM 28 (\$14/yr from PO Box 1023, Rockland, ME 04841): A magazine of writings by (and primarily for) women. The fiction and poetry are generally such that I do not wish to pass judgment on them; in general, I found them oddly effective despite feeling like an outsider. SW also publishes essays, and I thought the three in this issue were excellent, and

although they were from an expressly feminist perspective they had meaning for anyone who cares to think about things like patterns of dehumanization or the simple fact that many of today's jobs are basically unfulfilling. The focus in this issue was on "fat-body image-eating-food" and "women and work"; these themes gave a nice overall sense of cohesiveness to the zine.

SLEAZOID EXPRESS #147 (\$10/yr from Bill Landis, PO Box 799, Peter Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009): SLEAZOID is about cheapo movies, the ones where you have to look past the winos to see the screen. Of late Bill has fallen in with Joe Monday, star of numerous unknown porno movies, and strange issues have been resulting. This one is loosely structured around a movie called ECCO and records some of the high and low points of Joe's life, accompanied by collages of some of the cheesiest movie ads you'll ever see. Strange and dubious stuff.

SMASH APATHY #7 (50 cents from PO Box 1216, Fairlawn, NJ 07410): This pfanzine strives to break out of the mold by taking a more outright political stance and eschewing interviews and other shallow features. Unfortunately the political rabble-rousing sections suffer from extremely poor typing and printing, making them virtually unreadable. Other than that they publish a few lyrics, some reviews, and plenty of interesting graphics, including a cute little punk paper doll.

SMILE #8 (30 pence, or a couple of IRCs, from Karen Elliot, c/o 11 Bromwich House, Howson Terrace, Richmond Hill, Richmond Upon Thames, Surrey TW10 6RU ENGLAND): Those who have tried to follow the history of various modern art movements -- Dada, Surrealism, Neoism, and so on -- have sometimes given up in disgust. Fortunately for them the latest issue of SMILE discusses the founding of Praxis (a new movement timed to self-destruct in 1990) and gives a valuable (although deliberately distorted) précis of the other movements leading up to it starting with De Sade. Also contains a possibly fictional account of the lives of some figures active in performance art. Karen Elliot is everywhere, but THIS Karen Elliot is authentic.

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER Nov. 1985 (\$5/yr from John Harilee, Rt. 10, Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): This libertarian publication seeks to show the state for what it is: a stupid and pathetic behemoth, lumbering around without purpose and destroying lives in the process. They do this by reprinting storites from both the Establishment and alternative presses, as well as by publishing original articles dissecting the world's problems from a libertarian viewpoint. Always funny and thought-provoking.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM AND YOUR POCKET WRENCH #2 (25 cents from 7824 Kismet St., Miramar, FL 33023): This one is pretty much unclassifiable, but it's filled with artwork and words. The editorial claims it's for "those of you who wonder about the counter-revolutionary consequences of leaving the tap on in public bathrooms". Anyhow, I liked some of these stories or whatever, particularly Carol Magary's "My Secret Worries" and the uncredited "A Victorian Moment".

SPEW AND REVIEW #9 (SASE from Bob Konshak, 1490 E. Ryan Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109-4441): This former single-sheeter has doubled in size, with the addition being an apparent satire on some other campus publication with neo-Nazi tendencies. In the first sheet heartland, we have cartoon reviews, nasty Christmas gift suggestions, and a salute to the trendy-poseur British rock acts of 1985. Mostly funny stuff.

SPOOKY PAWS (72 cents from 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): This is a punk, cat-oriented, comic zine. I have no doubts whatsoever that it is the only one of this genre in existence. Features drawings and cartoons of cats, a cat politeness quiz, and thoughts and stories about cats that people have known. This issue's Cat of the Issue is Huckleberry, who belonged to Hudley of FLIPSIDE magazine.

SPORTS SERVICE REPORT Vol. 4 (? from Sports Service Report, PO Box 311, Lakeside, MI 49116): Last issue I mentioned a dozen or so handicappers, people who try to provide winning picks for your sports betting. Well, it turns out that there's a company that keeps track of the winning percentages of these hundreds of "sports services" and provides reports on the subject to the consumer. The best of the pack hit 64% of the time, which seems pretty good to me. Your bookie probably doesn't want you to get in touch with these people.

SRAFED BULL #92 (Contribution from SRAF, PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): This is the apa-like bulletin of the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation, a very loosely affiliated group of assorted leftists and other nutcases. Although decimated by recent feuding, SRAF is now apparently starting on the comeback trail, with interesting letters appearing in the Bulletin once again. We have to start somewhere if we're ever to get a national movement going, and SRAF has been hanging in there gamely for years.

STIFFING THE FERRYMAN #1 (The Usual from Mark Richards, 10 Park Terrace East #5D, New York, NY 10034): This sfanzine is what is called in the genre a personalzine, which simply means that Mark writes about whatever the heck he wants to. Mostly what Mark wants to talk about is fandom: conventions and fanzines and meetings and whatnot. However, he also gets in a few words about coffee-drinking and music. Not a bad starts.

STRIDER Dec. 1985 (\$1 from Lorne Strider, PO Box 554, Laytonville, CA 95454): STRIDER is a journal of personal libertarian commentary in an occasionally curmudgeonly vein. In this issue Lorne discusses moral education, including a recent California attempt to legislate such education, and the brouhaha over the congressional decision to stop funding for a Braille edition of PLAYBOY.

THE SUN #121 (\$2.75 from 412 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514): THE SUN is an interesting hotch-potch of various things, loosely grouped around an underlying but unstated theme of spirituality. This issue includes selections from Bo Lozoff's WE'RE ALL DOING TIME (see FF15), an article on miracles, a readers' forum discussing the pros and cons of white lies, poetry and letters. Comes complete with a closing page of great thoughts and an endorsement from Ram Dass.

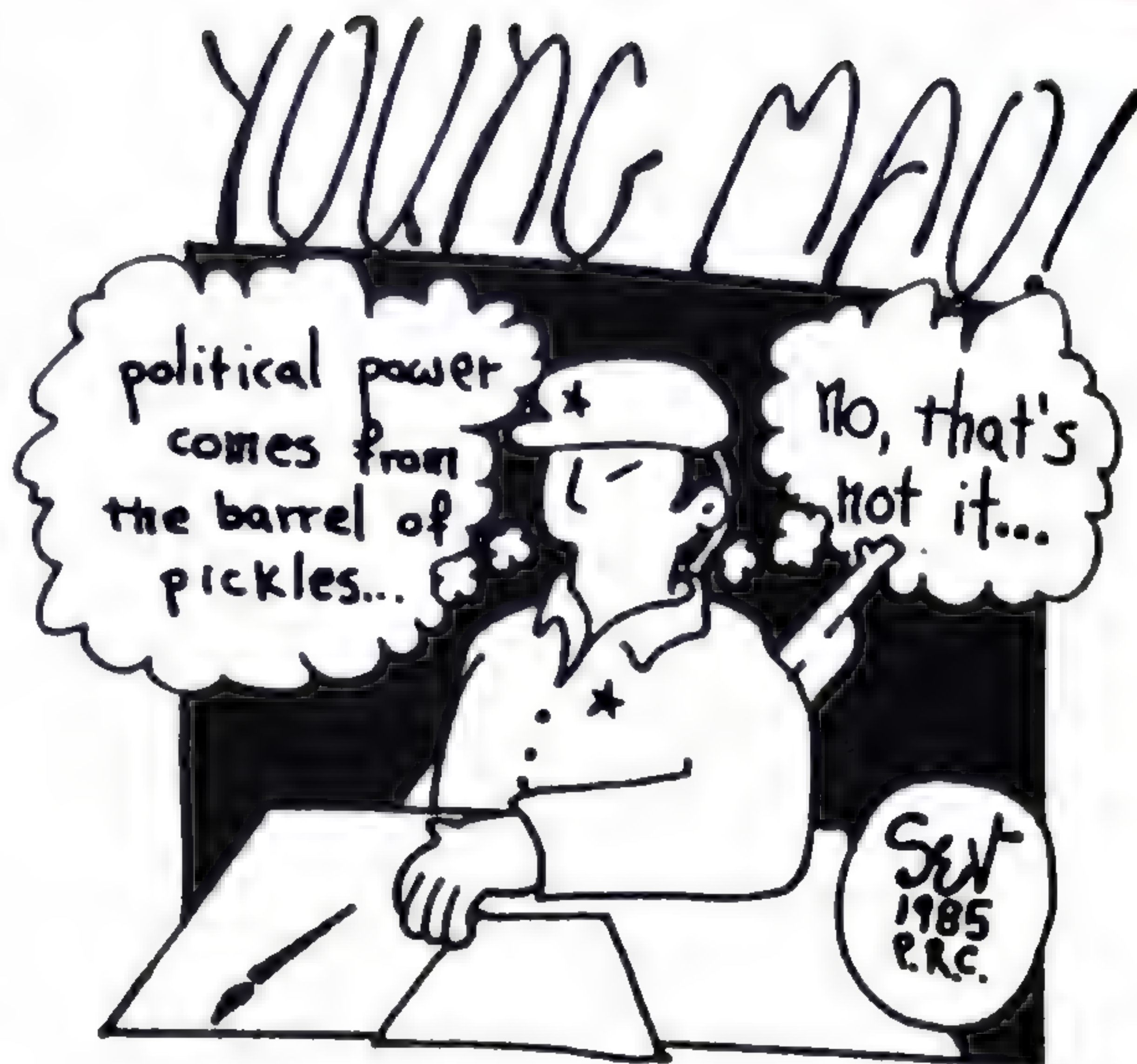
TANTRALINI NEWS #2 (\$1 from 30119 Overholser Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424): A collection of graphics, lists, reprinted news stories and reviews loosely grouped around the topic of sex. The overall point of view seems to be that the more the better. Everything from reprinted Penthouse letters stuff to an article on group marriages.

TAX LOVER'S TRUTH LETTER Vol. 2 #8 (\$12/yr from PO Box 22431, St. Louis, MO 63126): Publisher Winston Smith is desperately trying to bring the truth about the Federal Reserve System and various related matters (such as Masonic sabotage of the judiciary) to the attention of a disinterested public. His main point seems to be that our current financial system is functioning on credit instead of cash, and that this is causing a multitude of ills.

THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER #12 (\$1.50 from FACT, PO Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766): That's the Fandom Association of Central Texas, and this is their newszine. It's very well done and does indeed present a lot of news about the SF community along with reviews and miscellaneous other stuff, such as the histories of AZAPA in this issue. Alas, the whole zine suffers from print-reduction to the point of near-illegibility; I can understand the editorial drive to get everything in, but these folks went overboard.

THIRD RAIL #8 (SASE (?) from PO Box 1576, Stillwater, OK 74076): A pfanzine whose editor claims to do his best to "piss people off and to offend their sensibilities". Includes an offer to print letters suppressed by the local college paper, thoughts on punk's roots by someone who grew up in England as the genre did, and live and recorded music reviews. Stark but confusing black and white layout.

THE THOUGHT Vol. 5 #9 (\$1.50 from The Philosophers Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): Although THE THOUGHT bills itself as the "Official Magazine of the Philosophers Guild", it tends in fact to be the personal Journal of editor Ron Tobin, who writes about 90% of what appears here. Ron considers himself (I think) a rational anarchist, and seems to believe he need only explain himself and we'll all agree with him. As a result, much of



the content here comes across as hectoring. Topics in this issue include "Equality vs. Freedom", a discussion of the importance of emotions, and a 4-page attack on Santa Claus.

THUNDERBOW #95 (60 cents from Church of Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): The CSA is a pagan group which has carefully developed their own religion based on communication with the earth and its denizens (see book review of SHAMAN'S NOTES in FF16). Their monthly newsletter contains information on upcoming church activities, regular columns on subjects such as the I Ching and entheogens, and various articles on the practice of shamanism and related crafts.

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 11 #2-3 (\$10/yr from Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneva 16, SWITZERLAND): Refusing to be broken by the prevailing spirit of pessimism, this journal is by and for those who think individuals can make a difference for the better in our world. The main thrust of each issue is towards proposals to be considered in the UN or other international forums for easing tensions between nations. This double issue commemorates the 40th anniversary of the UN, with ideas for helping in Cambodia, establishing an Independent Satellite Monitoring Agency, and others. The thoughtful book reviews also deserve special mention. Seldom does one find such a depth of analysis and wealth of new ideas available at such a reasonable price.

TROUBLED TIMES #5 (\$1 from PO Box 1539, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1539): A journal of "ideas and essays", this one spends a lot of time poking fun at the left wing with articles such as "The Saga of Burnt: Last of the Hippie Capitalists". There's also serious political discussion (eg, on the effects of Marxism in Ethiopia), book and record reviews, and pure silliness like the advice column "Q&A with Radar Range". I refuse to mention another Henry Rollins interview, even if it is funnier than most.

THE TRUTH Vol. 7 #13 (\$8/12 issues from Irense Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313): A newsletter of biorhythm analysis. Features analyses of current celebrities and historical figures, plus offers for things like "compatibility analysis" to be done before getting seriously involved with someone.

THE TWO-BIT REVIEW #24 (\$6/yr from 2528 King St., Bellingham, WA 98225): The masthead says "A monthly publication of reviews, all written by readers, on the subjects of art, literature, cinema, cuisine, and stuff like that." This issue features a batch of new reviews, continuing discussion of some past ones, and a couple of recipes. Chatty and fun, this is sort of a parallel to the apa form discussed elsewhere.

UNCLE FESTER #9 (\$2 from Jake Wisely, 2235 France Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55416): Interviews, reviews, and skulls. Well, no, really there's a lot more in this pfanzine, and the artwork isn't dominated by skulls although it is of an identifiably punk outlook for the most part. UF is an up-and-coming zine that's developing a very attractive format. This issue has a foldout Husker Du or Replacements poster (depending on which copy you get), wrestling reviews, and interviews with performers as varied as REM's Michael Stipe, Tommy Ramone, the Replacements, and Theatre of Ice. The full-size format is a relief after so many digest-size pubs.

THE UNICORN, Yule 1985 (\$10/yr from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): The Rowan Tree is a "mystery school", and this is sort of a pagan outreach publication. Typical features include herbalism and Tarot columns, letters and other networking, and a wide selection of pleasant, naturalistic art. This issue also has a couple of reviews of books of interest to neo-pagans.

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. 5 #1 (\$3 from PO Box 100787, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310): UO is the premiere Constitutionalist networking publication around. In addition to regular articles, each issue contains several columns of quotes from other sources in the movement and snippets of interesting news. With somewhat wider interests than other Constitutionalist pubs, past issues have carried articles on Tesla's inventions and the plight of the farmer, as well as the more usual income tax strategies and legal folderol. This issue features photos and reportage from the Second Conference on Constitutional Living, an event that drew most of the movement bigwigs.

URGL-ORP #11 (\$1 from Nicole, Garbanzo House, Ont. K1R 6Y8 CANADA): This started out as a pfan

It.. Ottawa, carries music

reviews. More and more the emphasis has moved to other issues, with animal rights and feminism in the forefront. This issue features an extremely interesting article on the formation of a communal house by Nicole and others in the Ottawa area, plus articles on tickling, women & medicine, alternative recipes and much more.

THE VALLEY FEVER Vol. 5 #2 (SASE (?) from PO Box 35031, Tucson, AZ 85740): This is a "magazine of experimental writing", and most of it is so experimental as to be completely incomprehensible. The writers and artists here are producing things that would not otherwise have a hope of being published: what might be random prose with computer graphics, poetic snatches of text, instructions for listening to the random music about you and so on. They're looking for submissions.

VENTURE CAPITAL NEWS VOL. 1 #5 (FREE from PO Box 32095, Charlotte, NC 28232): This tabloid tries to bring to your attention profitable opportunities for investment: in this issue we have Panamanian macadamia nut farms, monoclonal antibodies, and some other medical stuff, plus a new type of compressed-air whoozits. Two caveats strike me, though. First, the newspaper is supported by its ads, not by subscriptions. Second, I don't see a word about their track record. But it is free.

A VERY SMALL MAGAZINE (25 cents + 22 cents postage from Beth Blevins, Rt. 1, Box 123A, Vilas, NC 28692): Small indeed, but oh what a gem this is! This is essential reading for the lover of satire and small press, especially the Small Anthology of Stupid Poetry: "We've collected, in this one tiny volume, all the poems and kinds of poems that you've probably already read too many of, for one convenient loathing." Hilarious! Also features Fascion and New Egg sections, all with a very deft wit.

VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWSLETTER #1 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 3881, Portland, ME 04104): Just what the name says: a group of ex-servicemen and women who are now working for peace. This first issue is mainly dedicated to introducing the current members of VFP and outlining their future priorities: draft counseling, veterans' rights, and civilian education among them.

VIRGINIA LIBERTY Vol. 1 #7 (\$10/yr from LPVA, 824 W. Broad, Richmond, VA 23220): Tabloid published by the Virginia Libertarian Party. Articles in this one on public schools, gun control, South African divestment, and a rah-rah piece putting forth the LP as an Alternative for Americans. Also a photo spread from the National LP Convention.

MICHAEL VOODOO (SASE from PO Box 57232, Washington, DC 20037): This mail artist sends out a barrage of stuff to anyone on his list: decorative envelopes, xeroxed collages, reprints of mail artists' stamps, HUSTLER pages, curious stickers, and who knows what else. This guy's postage bill must be worse than mine. Prolific and persistent, if not very clear.

WAGE OF MAYHEM #2 (\$1.99 from Nasty Savage Inc., PO Box 2012, Brandon, FL 33511): Put out by a Florida heavy metal band who've been together a few years (and now have vinyl out on Metal Blade Records), this pfanzone is for the average teenage-boy fan of the genre. Interviews with the band and their friends, lots of photos, lyrics, naked women, and stuff about other metal groups. Next issue they promise a feature-length interview with Wendy O Williams.

WARNING #16 (\$1 from PO Box 102993, Anchorage, AK 99510): There's actually a pretty active punk scene in Anchorage and WARNING is right at the heart of it. Editor Bill Bored is also involved with a batch of other music projects, and is the person to contact for info on the area. Along with the usual musical stuff this one has an article on SF cult movies, a report on a couple of skateboarding competitions and plenty of nice cartoons and other graphics. Maybe being snowbound gives them more time to work on it, but whatever the reason, WARNING is in the first rank of pfanzones.

THE WDC PERIOD #12 (\$1.50 from Chow Chow Productions, PO Box #43311-9-311, Washington, DC 20010): Fun-filled DC pfanzone. The newsprint format allows them to get a lot of material in without going broke, so there's more here than the average zine has -- reviews and interviews, of course, but also regular columnists, comics stuff, plenty of graphics. There seems to be an undercurrent of thoughtful opposition to the system here, but it doesn't get in the way.

THE WEST VIRGINIA SURF REPORT Page 3, Issue 1 (SASE from PO Box 663,

Dunbar, WV 25064): Quite possibly the best of the one-sheeter humor mags, although I suspect that his one may be mailed in from an alternate dimension and thus ineligible to compete. This one features a story on the tribulations of Thomas Edison's music career, a sendup of pfanzine band interviews and other wonderful non sequitirs.

WE THE PEOPLE Vol. 1 #6 (25 cents SILVER coin or \$2 POSTAL MO from 47 Meadow Rd., Westport, MA 02790): A Constitutionalist publication that seems to be specializing in abstruse legal research looking for loopholes in the very heart of our system. Right now there's a debate going on in their pages over Admiralty vs. Common Law jurisdiction in the courts. They're also a good place to go for book and video resources.

WIGGANSNATCH #17 (\$1.25 from James Moore, PO Box 20061, Seattle, WA 98102): This is an "alternative realities literary magazine", and as is the tendency for small-press short stories, a lot of the realities are pretty bleak. (Most of my own short-short stories were this way too; I think it's just easier to write downers). The theme of this issue, perhaps unintentional, is Vampires, and some of the stories are quite good; in particular John B. Roseman's "A Sense of Vocation" aptly covers the difficulty of growing up in the family trade. The letter column of WS appears to be heating up with a debate about which letter-writers are real.

X IT OUT #1 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 1102, Allston Stn., MA 02134): This is Boston's new "humor tabloid", apparently meant to be distributed free locally along with the RCP and the Maranathas. Well, it beats the hell out of either of those papers. Much of this stuff is reaching, although the parody of the Boston Glob might have been funny in a third the space. Still and all, for a first issue this is respectably done and well-styled: they have the rest of the paper's life to work on content.

YELLOW SILK #17 (\$3.50 from verygraphics, PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): YS is a "Journal of the Erotic Arts" and the watchwords on the masthead are "All persuasions; no brutality". Editor Lily Pond succeeds very well in publishing a literary magazine that is also erotic, without being pornographic (those who don't understand the difference probably wouldn't like YS anyhow). Stories, poetry, art (wonderful layered-fabric pieces from Jeannie Kamins illustrate this issue) all with erotic overtones. The quality of submissions is high for any literary magazine, let alone one with such a specific field.

ZINE ORGY #2 (75 cents from Verna, 1501 NE 102nd St., Seattle, WA 98125): This is a compilation fanzine, printed equivalent of a compilation record, featuring efforts from a dozen or so Northwest zine editors. The whole package is well put together and attractively printed, and it serves as an introduction to a lot of pfanzines all at once. Among the standout contributions are an interview with the guy who runs Mega Force Records (an interesting point of view), a long chat with Ian MacKaye, formerly of MINOR THREAT, and the collages from Burnt Raisins. I hope this idea catches on.

ZYZZYVA Vol. 1 #4 (\$5 from 55 Sutter, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94104): A literary magazine that seems to have assured itself a place at the end of these listings. Poetry, stories, art and photography. The poetry didn't get to me, but the art is interesting, for the most part suggestive without being too inscrutable. The stories are much the same way, often being merely vignettes with no definite plot, an exercise in using the language to its fullest for the sheer joy of communicating. In particular Amy Gerstler's "Primitive Man" and Hob Broun's "Caution Deaf Child" were moving experiences. A special nod to the fascinating excerpts from Peter Browning's "Place Names of the Sierra Nevada".



STARS ON ONE

BY ARTHUR ALPER

Vicious rumors to the contrary notwithstanding, I want to make it decidedly clear that my absence from these pages last issue was most assuredly not due to a mental and emotional breakdown of massive (and noisy) proportions that I allegedly experienced in the lobby of the Parklane Theatre in Palisades Park, New Jersey upon attempting, for the third day in a row, to see JAGGED EDGE, and being informed, for the third day in a row, that it had been replaced by a Special Holiday Showing of RAINBOW BRIDE MEETS MURPHY DISMAL. To the contrary, any difficulties of this nature that I might have suffered over the past couple of months (and stories of barricading myself behind a fortress of popcorn boxes and pelting usherettes with black Jujubes are grossly exaggerated) were entirely related to the movies that I DID manage to see during the last year and cannot in any way be blamed on those that I happened to miss, or the ways in which I happened to miss them, even if they did star Glenn Close and happen to be shown in the only theatre in New Jersey that still contains a smoking section. Honestly, I don't know how these things get started.

Having said that, then, I think it only fair to point out right now that I may possibly still be undergoing the faintest possible aftereffects of what has come to be known around here as the Autumnal Awful, for I can find nothing else to which to attribute the fact that, in a year that found Sylvester Stallone working away like a little beaver and issuing forth with both RAMBO and ROCKY IV (and while he's in this mood, there's a certain theatre manager in Palisades Park I wish he'd look up, but that's another question), I have chosen to break tradition and come up with a Ten Best List.

There is just no logical excuse for this sort of decision. I mean, this was the year in which BACK TO THE FUTURE, a pleasant enough movie, the type of thing that routinely goes over well with people who have never seen a real science fiction movie, and rather comical in its way but, just between you and me, No Big Deal, was hailed as a Great Film simply by dint of what it had for competition. This was the year that brought us EMERALD FOREST, the heartwarming story of a boy and his cute, primitive tribe, RUSTLER'S RHAPSODY, in which several otherwise normal people ruined their careers by attempting to remake BLAZING SADDLES, MASK, Hollywood's entry in the Disease of the Week Sweepstakes, and St. ELMO'S FIRE, which did for college graduates precisely what Momar Khadafi is doing for rational discussion in the Mideast. And that's not even taking into account COCOON. Only a brave, daring, farseeing, sensitive and creative columnist -- or an unmitigated fool stuck at the last minute for a topic -- would choose to do a Ten Best List in this particular year. Your vote on just which type is writing this piece is respectfully not solicited. Remember, I've been ill.

Things being as they were in Filmland this year, and disclaimers being such nice, useful things when one begins to get the feeling that one has begun to drain the swamp only to find oneself up to one's ass in alligators, it behooves me to mention, in the first place, that there may very possibly not be ten movies on the list after all -- I'm afraid to count up the ones I have in my notes, for fear of having to call this madness "The Three or Four Best Movies of 1985", or something equally embarrassing -- and, in the second place (and rather more important), that quite a few of these movies aren't actually particularly good. Some of them wouldn't get within sniffing distance of a Ten Best List in a normal year (whatever that is), but, well, I sat through them without wincing and they didn't automatically make me want to lose my lunch (preferably on their directors' shiny new Cadillacs) and they had their moments, which puts them several yards ahead of most of what I suffered through during the year just past. On the other hand, some few of them were excellent by any standards, and gave me the courage to carry on, to say nothing of sparing me the trouble and expense of taking up a new hobby at this advanced stage of my life. Take special note of the first one on the list, if you feel the need to blame something for the fact that I am not now writing an indoor gardening column.

In no order whatsoever, then (except for the first one), and with no small amount of trepidation, I give you:

THE TEN (MORE OR LESS) BEST (OR, ANYWAY, I THINK)
(OR, AT LEAST, THEM) MOVIES OF 1985

1. AFTER HOURS

This was not only the best movie of 1985, it probably qualifies as the best movie of a whole lot of other years, as well. Depending on whether or not one has ever spent any time in New York's Soho district, this is either a nightmarish comedy or a true-life adventure film about a fairly ordinary (and, one gather, not over bright) young man, who makes what turns out to be the colossal mistake of attempting to go out on a late night date with a peculiar young woman he meets in a coffee shop. Every conceivable thing that could possibly happen (and a tolerable amount that are somewhat less than conceivable) at night in New York befalls this poor soul and, in the course of it, Yuppies, artists, burglars, gay men, night clubbers, feminists, bartenders and Mr. Softee vendors are all equally and impartially skewered, basted and roasted. Written as a Master's degree project by a 27 year old Columbia film student (shucks, when I was taking film at school all we wrote were erudite term papers on the use of jump-cutting in CITIZEN KANE), directed, casually and calmly, by Martin Scorsese, who knows the murkier side of big cities as does no other film-maker, starring Griffin Dunne (who, as anyone who watched him steal AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON out from under David Naughton or breath some sort of life into the wimpy, do-gooder kid brother in JOHNNY DANGEROUSLY knows, is one of those rare actors capable of doing comedy without making it seem as though he were really trying to audition for DEATH OF A SALESMAN), and featuring marvelous cameos by the likes of John Heard, Teri Garr, Rosanna Arquette (who finally gets to be Susan), Catherine O'Hara, Bronson Pinchot and even Cheech and Chong, there's not a wasted second or spare inch of film in this movie. If you like your comedy scary and absolutely black, so dry that it makes your mouth pucker, this is unbeatable. Absolutely the best of the bunch.

2. PRIZZI'S HONOR

This was the best of the bunch until I saw AFTER HOURS, and it certainly isn't its fault that I had to knock it down a peg. As a matter of fact, the two films have a great deal in common, without being at all the same. They were both directed, and admirably, by men who are perhaps better known in genres other than comedy (in this case, John Houston); they both contain sterling acting performances (notable in PRIZZI'S HONOR are, of course, Jack Nicholson and, in one of the only cases of nepotism I've ever seen amount to anything, the weirdly fascinating Angelica Houston, but this is to take nothing away from the rest of the cast, which is uniformly excellent); they both posit a twisted and rather bitter -- though radically different in each case -- view of reality; and they're both hysterically funny in a grown-up, very sophisticated way, very refreshing in this day and age, when Eddie Murphy's racist, misogynistic, homophobic posturing is often considered the height of wit.

It's worse than useless to try to explain the plot of PRIZZI'S HONOR. It's got one, all right, and quite a clever thing it is, too, but there are so many turnings and side-steps and red herrings and sub-issues that it completely bogs down once one tries to pick it apart, and that would be terribly unfair to a movie that never once, in all its nearly two hours, bogs down in the slightest. It's got something to do with Organized Crime, and something to do with jealousy, and something to do with the two-career couple, and something to do with ambition and, oh, the hell with it -- go see PRIZZI'S HONOR if you haven't already had the pleasure.

3. SILVERADO

To dig up an old cliché, watching this movie is a bit like eating cotton candy -- it's pretty to look at, leaves a sweet aftertaste, and has absolutely no nutritional value whatsoever. Not that this is necessarily a bad thing, you understand -- it isn't written anywhere that everything one eats must be good for one (unless one happens to be one of those sorts of people, and we all know what they're like) and every film one sees must have some sort of great social and political import (unless one is writing one's column for CAHIERS DU CINEMA, and I personally wouldn't do that for a million dollars, even if they wrote to me and asked) (note to CAHIERS editors: address obtainable from Mike Gunderlov). This is simply a pleasant, old-fashioned Western with a 1985 sensibility, meaning that the good guys win, but the bad guys don't wear black hats, and the Indians do not speak with forked tongues, and there's nothing wrong with that that I can see. I can't say that this was a particularly memorable movie -- seven months after seeing it the only thing I retain is a charming performance by Linda Hunt -- but I had a good time while I watched it, and there are far worse things one can say about a film, especially this year.

4. PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO

Not vintage Woody Allen by any means but, then again, Allen on an

off-day is so much better than, say, Ron Howard on a roll that that mildly damning statement scarcely seems a criticism. This is a wistful, wispy, sad (in the best sense of the word) little movie about movies, the people who love movies, and the loneliness that touches all our lives. In less deft hands (Spielberg springs immediately to mind) this would have been nothing short of utter drivel, but Allen brings it off with taste, tenderness and just the right amount of humor. Mia Farrow -- for whom I've never specially cared -- is perfect as a neglected housewife who falls in love with a character in a movie who, to her great shock and delight, leaves the screen to pursue her (I don't know about you, but this has always been one of my favorite fantasies). Danny Aiello -- who I've always liked very much (he's one of those underrated actors whose face is vaguely recognizable but whose name is not) -- underplays skillfully as Farrow's brutish, bewildered husband, and Jeff Daniels is properly callow as both the straying movie character and the actor who portrays him (this is a lot clearer on the screen than it is in print). The ending is a tad too depressing for such a confection, there are moments that drag and moments that confuse (this is not, as I said, vintage Allen), but overall, this is a good film, though not a great one.

5. AGNES OF GOD

Depending on whom you're listening to at any given time, this is either an intense, fascinating study of religion, morality, humanism and emotions or an overblown, pretentious piece of pseudo-spiritual drivel. Actually, it veers back and forth between the two extremes, being sometimes one, sometimes the other and occasionally both at once and emerges ultimately as a decent minor film that raises some interesting questions that it can't really be blamed for not answering. A novitiate in an extremely cloistered convent of nuns somehow gets pregnant and either does or does not murder the infant at its birth. The question of her guilt or innocence becomes less important, through the course of the movie, than the question of her nature, and the nature of religion itself: is she saint or psychotic and is belief divine miracle or simple self-delusion? No matter which side you take -- and you will take one or the other; there are no agnostics watching this movie -- the movie offers two and a half fine performances (Meg Tilley as the otherworldly Agnes, Anne Bancroft -- has she ever given a bad performance? -- as the sharp-witted, unwillingly honest Mother Superior, and Jane Fonda during those few moments when she forgets she's Jane Fonda and remembers she's supposed to be a bitter, lapsed Catholic of a state psychiatrist) and some food for thought, at least enough so that one doesn't realize until several days later that somehow, the thing never gels. One of the ones that wouldn't have been among the Ten Best in any other year, but shines above the rest of this year's crud.

6. THE COMPANY OF WOLVES

Kevin and Adrienne, the wonderful folks that run my video club, threatened to never let me rent another movie if I criticized this film (I had to plead with them not to take away my Gold Card on the spot when they found out that I criticized movies in even the small way that I do) so I guess I won't, at that. (I'm still on the waiting list for COLD FEET, and I do have my priorities). As it happens, this is a rich, stylish, dreamlike, multi-level film that manages to be both an engrossing story of a girl's adolescence and a pretty good werewolf tale at the same time, without demeaning either one, so I don't have to worry too much about compromising what little integrity I have left, and, if it's periodically too dreamlike, if all those levels sometimes get a touch difficult to keep straight, if its stylishness has a tendency to make it slightly cold, well, you won't catch me saying anything about it. Honestly guys, I liked it. And it's got Angela Lansbury and David Warner in it, too.

7. WITNESS

A taut, suspenseful, exciting movie, a Thinking Person's mystery and, not incidentally, a tolerably insightful look at a collision of cultures. I gather that many Amish people were not thrilled by their depiction in this film (though one wonders how, if they don't go to movies or read newspapers, they found out about it) and they may have a point in that it's my understanding that the Amish would not take in an outsider, no matter how dire the circumstances, which shoots the plot all to hell; still, it seemed to my admittedly unknowledgeable eyes that they were treated with as much dignity and respect for their way of life as Hollywood is capable of dishing out. This possible plot-hole aside, however, this is an intelligent, entertaining film and, as I do not even briefly tell the stories of mysteries, that's all I'm going to say about it, except to mention that Harrison Ford appears to be a much better actor than he's normally given

credit to, and certain scenes of (alleged) Amish daily life were enough to make Jill Zimmerman and me, two faded urbanites, wish they took converts.

8. THE BREAKFAST CLUB

I've written extensively enough about this quiet gem elsewhere to make just about anything I'd say now redundant in the extreme, so I will merely mention that it is one of the few films ever made that depicts adolescents as adolescents and not as short, oversexed 40 year olds with bad skin, and the only film starring most of the inmates of the infamous Brat Pack that does not make one yearn for the good old days, when teenaged boys were sent down into the coal mines to earn an honest living. A delight from start to finish -- keep your eye on Ally Sheedy and Anthony Michael Hall (if his stint on SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE doesn't completely ruin his credibility) as leaders for the next generation of talented, honest actors, once the current mania to cash in on them dies down.

9. PEE WEE'S BIG ADVENTURE

Say WHAT? Well, okay, but I think the big problem it had was that it was touted as an uproarious comedy, and it is not an uproarious comedy -- it isn't very funny at all. What it is is an offbeat, surreal, creepy, unsettling, small film by a man called Paul Reubens who is almost never acknowledged for his (dare I say) Discordian brilliance. The essence of Reubens' eccentric eeriness is the fact that one is never sure, nor is it ever explained, whether his character, Pee Wee Herman, is a man with the mind of a nasty child or an overgrown, monstrous little boy. One could go very happily nuts trying to work this out, all the while one's skin is crawling at the implications of either option and, hey, I liked this movie. You wanna make something out of it?

10. THE COLOR PURPLE

I always knew that one day the innate schizophrenia of this column would catch up with me (am I a movie fan or a movie critic? Can the two be one and the same? Does it matter? Can it not matter?), and it finally happened with this film. There are two realities about this movie. As a critic, I will tell you that the reality is that THE COLOR PURPLE is overwrought, overdrawn, hokey, silly, unbelievable and pandering, a miserable example of Spielberg at his worst. That's the truth. As a fan, however, I will tell you that I sat and cried like a baby through the whole thing, to the extent that it took me 15 minutes after the final credits to compose myself enough to leave the theatre, and the reality is that it moved me in a way that very few films have ever moved me before. This is also the truth. Which truth you choose to believe I suppose depends on how you feel about having your tears jerked, how much you're willing to suspend disbelief and, I have the uncomfortable suspicion, whether you're a man or a woman (lord, how I hate making statements like that, and I blame my making this one on both Spielberg and Alice Walker, who wrote the novel on which this is based. Both of them seem dedicated to the proposition that men and women are, by nature, on opposite sides of an unclimbable fence, and I rather dislike both of them for dragging me into this nonsense. It's unavoidable, though -- the way it's set up. I don't think very many men are going to like this movie, and with good reason) but the film is worth seeing in either case, if only for the fantastic performances of Whoopi Goldberg, Oprah Winfrey (a shoe-in for Best Supporting Actress this year, if there's any justice at all) and the rest of the cast. I didn't like liking this movie, but I liked it all the same. You figure it out.

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Gosh all fish-hooks, you mean I actually managed to find ten watchable movies in 1985? (To tell you the truth, I could have had eleven -- LADYHAWKE was on this list until I discovered that THE BREAKFAST CLUB had an '85 release date. It got dropped because it's the weakest out of the group, but it's still a pretty, imaginative film that doesn't take itself quite as seriously as it might). Wow, you could knock me over with a ton of bricks. I'll tell you. Of course, ten (or eleven) tolerable films out of a whole year's worth of releases isn't exactly an encouraging average, but it is rather a relief to realize that the year wasn't an unmitigated disaster. It's almost enough to make me want to risk another chance at seeing JAGGED EDGE, in the hopes of making it twelve, always assuming that the folks in Palisades Park will let me back into their town, to say nothing of their theatre. I don't suppose they're going to remember all those spray-painted comments about Murky Dismal's ancestry after all this time, do you?

Barring the opening of THE CARE BEARS INTER-MARRY WITH THE GUMMIS at the only theatre in the area currently showing FOUL FOR LOVE, I shall return with details next time.

AUDIO

The observant reader will note that the title of this column has been changed. "Music" seemed too limiting a term for the variety of things being reviewed here, from poetry to audio fanzines to punk to who-knows-what. So in the future, if it's on audio tape, this is where it belongs. We regret any inconvenience.

Through some unfortunate circumstances, my music reviewer has ended up in the hole at Leavenworth this month. As a result, I'm taking on more of the reviewing duties than usual. I hope my ignorance won't be too glaring, and with any luck Shane will be back up to speed for the next issue. As always, reviews conclude with the initials of the reviewer.

AUDIO ALCHEMY DIGEST #2 (\$3 from Cassette Mythos, PO Box 2391, Olympia, WA 98507): This is the cassette portion of the zine that I reviewed in FF16. Robin James is using the cassette as a tool to explore cassette culture, and this is an intermixed series of responses to the Ten Question survey which is one of the backbones of AAD. Interesting thoughts on cassettes, technology and society from some major forces in the taping world, including the folks behind CLEM, Floating World, Insane Music Contact and Ladd/Frith. My copy was also filled out with some tape-loop experiments of Robin's. I recommend that anyone working seriously with cassettes get involved with this project. (MG)

AWESOME POSSUM demo (contact Chris Cart, Rt. 3 Box 210A, Crowley, LA 70526): Self-described as industrial blues, this is true Swamp Music. Yep the very trendy sounds of the swamps of Cajun country that have found their way into countless primitive rock bands (like my faves, Scientists) are here found to be not so trendy. As a hardcore punk, alumnus of Toxin III, Snufflix and most recently Reality on Trial, Chris stretches out and does his own thing with a 4-track. A few buried vocals, but mostly instrumental, not compelling but never off-putting or boring. This stuff to my ears is a lot fresher as an experiment than, say, Burden of Friendship (below). Most of the stuff is original but a very un-Hendrix-like Hendrix tribute is here too. I recommend that tape traders get with Chris immediately. (tape) (SW)

THE BLANKS, "Clockwatcher" b/w "The Tension" (\$2 from Bill Boyer, PO Box 1010, Birmingham, MI 48012): THE BLANKS are part of a slowly growing "political music" scene in the Detroit area, where there is also something of a political zine scene. They play sort of updated folk, featuring a fairly slick production and more complex instrumentation than traditional folk, but it's not quite rock. "Clockwatcher" seems to be an indictment of modern time-oriented civilization spinning its wheels in the sand; the B-Side is a sort of mild anti-racism number. (45) (MG)

BOSS HOSS demo (contact 309 Judah #122, San Francisco, CA 94122): High-power rock and roll. The vocals are exceptionally gravelly, which may or may not be a selling point. The backing music is raunchy and driving, with a strong drummer backing up guitars just this side of feedback. Best played at extremely high volume. More enthusiasm than talent. (tape) (MG)

BOX O' LAFFS, "Dogbook" (\$3 from Warpt West, PO Box 8045, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8045): This 24-cut tape comes with a nicely done lyric booklet and is quite amazing to listen to. From just reading the lyrics one gets the impression that this should be neo-psychedelic stuff: "In a dream of this dream/Chemical Angels/swim down/through the streaming nylon/Furious clowns, intellectual police" starts the first song. Yet the music is as far from a sixties revival as you could imagine: definitely punk, edging now towards hardcore and again towards pop, with a bit of industrial-style noise thrown in for good measure. The lyrics on this are the greatest, with the climactic cut being "Radio Antenna", a spoken narrative over a repetitious punk backing that would go well posted on a telephone pole with the other kook literature. My surprise pick of the month. (tape) (MG)

"Brain of Stone" Compilation (\$4 from Bad Compilation Tapes, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): One of a huge series of international compilations (check out the label spotlight in my column), this one has some Scandinavian and West German bands as well as lots of American groups, but my fave cut is by Violent Circle out of Australia who sing "Public Minister - He's so sinister" - yeah!! Another hit here is some psychotic psychedelic

noise by Colorado outfit Happy Flowers who sing "Mom, I gave the cat some acid" reminding me of the time I fed mescaline to a fox terrier (shame on me!). Let's not forget my swamp buddies Toxin III and Snufflix who play decent hardcore and are long defunct but were the original bands of Chris Cart, the Awesome Possum man. Not the best BCT has, but one of their few 90 instead of 60-minute tapes. (tape) (SW)

TOM BRIGHT, "Hands of Time" (\$6 from Blackberry Way Records, 603 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414): The political tune "Lebanon" has been getting college airplay, but as far as I'm concerned the standout of this EP is "Video Hospital", a paean to modern television as the molder of the world ("Welcome to a world/where fantasy and reality share the same channel"). Bright's music is exceptionally clean, and although the band is a standard four-piece, the ethereal vocals and keyboards easily dominate the sound, almost to the point where you'd swear there was nothing else. The special effects are restrained, with the artist content to make music instead of showing off. Slow and thoughtful music that isn't boring. (EP) (MG)

BURDEN OF FRIENDSHIP, "The Head of Your Goat, The Son of Your Dog, Vol. 1" (5300 N. St. Louis Ave. Chicago, IL 60625): Listening to this tape puts me in mind of the Theatre of Ice song "Radio Has Gone Insane". What we have here is a great stew of sounds, collected from a variety of places by the radio dudes who put this thing together. Everything from short bursts of static to electronically distorted guitars to what sound like back-masked noises. Experimental mood music. (tape) (MG)

BURDEN OF FRIENDSHIP, "The Head of Your Goat, The Son of Your Dog, Vol. 2" (5300 N. St. Louis Ave. Chicago, IL 60625): I don't know if these guys want to be lumped in with bizarre experimentalists like Residents and Walls of Genius or the harsher industrialists like Whitehorse. What seems at points whimsical or humorous kind of loses that feel when the voiceover starts describing the guy who ate people and died of puppura. That kind of horrific gross-out is a much-used industrial technique (as seen in Throbbing Gristle's classic "Hamburger Lady" about a woman badly burned). Most of the rest seems to be splices of other tapes -- I guess they sat around their radio station creating this with the available equipment and all the myriad recordings you would find there. I find this stuff interesting but not essential, except perhaps for experimental music fans. (tape) (SW)

PETER CATHAM, "Pinched Awake" (\$3.50 from Permission Cassettes, PO Box 73, Pasadena, CA 91102): Peter makes music, but doesn't use many of the usual instruments. Instead this work is painstakingly crafted, much of it from vocals, some from tape loops or everyday sounds (a phone busv signal, running water, dice), and a bit from synthesizers, guitars, tambourines and so on. The emphasis is on story-telling and light humor, and the result is a totally different listening experience. Whether it's the frenzied adman pace of "Genewash" or the reversed vocals in "Backward Languages" or the life history in "30 Years Out of the Trees", Peter manages to make his songs innovative and fun without being unintelligibly experimental. (tape) (MG)

THE CLYNG-ONZ, "Hide Your Eskimos" (\$6 from 205 E. 4th Ave., #253, Anchorage, AK 99501): Fast, loud, and hilarious punk. The eponymous first cut on the tape starts out "Watch out Kirk/Bend over Spock/Clyng-Onz have come/To clean your clock", and the rest of the songs proceed to trash a lot of institutions, ranging from the Russian Navy to Winnebagos (there's a great video for "Shootin Winnebagos" but I don't think you'll see it on MTV) and even condoms. The musical backing is unfortunately weak but the lyrics make up for that. 24 "Hits" and even then there's room for an interview on the B-side. (tape) (MG/SW)

DAVID AND EVA, self-titled (The Mr. & Mrs. Greenberger Record Company, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): From the guy who runs DUPLEX PLANET and his wife comes this strange collection of little ditties. My favorite is "Obedience Test", a song that dares the listener to interact with the record. A close second is the version of "When You Wish Upon a Star", credited to The Incredible Casuals and sounding like the farewell song from a 1950's high school dance. In fact this whole record sounds musically as if it came from a vault someplace -- definitely not punk or new wave. (EP) (MG)

ED GEIN'S CAR, "Making Dick Dance" (c/o 312 3 St. #2L, Brooklyn, NY 11215): It's a good thing that the Washington Wives didn't run across these guys, or Tipper Gore would have gone into cardiac arrest. It's not that EGC are really such terrible guys, it's just that if you listen to their lyrics

without a sense of humor you're apt to be repulsed. Take "Boo Fuckin' Hoo", a ballad about Bernie Goetz, or "R.A.P.E." ("the courts don't care if a man has fun/until the judge's wife is the next one"). The music here is on the punk side of things, raw and powerful, but with exceptionally clear vocals. These guys just wanna have fun -- how else could you explain "Annette", a lean-creaming ode to everyone's favorite Mouseketeer? (LP) (MG)

• VERNON FRAZER, "Beatnik Poetry (First Set)" (\$2.50 from Everyday Books, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): This is one of the more distinctive items in this section. As far as I know Vernon invented this style of presentation himself: These are, as the title says, Beatnik poems, presented with a jazz bass line as backing and interspersed with narration from the poet himself. Vernon discusses the origin of the various poems and the process of writing, together with observations on jazz and hipsters and other relics of a past culture. The poetry itself is interesting, a jumble of fragmented images seeking to capture emotions while suggesting a story line. My favorite is "A Conversion (Of Sorts)", the tale of a sudden and striking Buddhist experience in the modern world. (tape) (MG)

"Godfodder" compilation (Warpt Records West, PO Box 8045, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8045): With a strong Santa Cruz influence in that half of Asbestos Rockpile was going to school out there and put a bunch of local bands on this plus collaborations with Santa Cruz musicians, but it's still got bands from the East Coast and other spots too. Diverse music too: Pungent political hardcore by youthful first-timers, more cynical hardcore, the folk punk of cult faves Camper Van Beethoven, and even Asbestos Rockpile's own "Pastaman Vibration". From the scatological to the urgently world-wanna-change-it punk this tape is pretty cool. Nothing I play lots and lots, but nothing to hurry up and tape over either. A worthwhile project, especially recommended to Asbestos Rockpile devotees and collectors. (tape) (SW).

THE HONEYMOON KILLERS, "Love American Style" (PO Box 20898, New York, NY 10009): Where do these guys fit in: are they part of the New York art damage grunge core of Swans and Sonic Youth? Or are they New York's answer to England's trash rock and Australia's Scientists -- are they even serious? I aim to find out and hope to interview them soon. For now I can say this record calms itself down a little from their self-titled first LP, but otherwise I'm virtually at a loss on this one. How about this: they do the Batman theme song and don't trash it but make it sound like a HK original!? (That theme seems to be getting quite a workout lately: check out "Sick Man" off "Hole", the LP by Scraping Foetus off the Wheel). Having trouble describing this, I'll just give it an A- or B+ -- check it out. (LP) (SW)

FRANK KOGAN, "Stars Vomit Coffee Shop" (\$4 from 223 Mott St., #15, New York, NY 10012): This includes music from Frank's bands RED DARK SWEET and THE PILLOWMAKERS as well as his solo stuff. The music runs the gamut from noise designed to drive the audience from the club to more-or-less ballads. Frank's somewhat strident voice and the heavy guitar mix tie the tape together stylistically, and his disturbing lyrics ("Grenadine blood/runnin' down my arm") make the songs stand out from run-of-the-mill experimental stuff. This is an attempt at a post-punk sound, and comes with an explanation from the artist of what was intended and what didn't work. The stuff of nightmares is hiding here. (tape) (MG)

KONSTRUKTIVITS, "Spanish Movements" (\$7 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): KONSTRUKTIVITS are an English experimental electronic band, and this is an excellent example of their expertise. The synthesizers build up layer on layer of music, treating each of the (mostly) dark and brooding themes with loving care. The atmosphere at times is so thick that you could cut it with a chainsaw. The music is open-ended for the most part, tunes in no hurry to get anywhere, providing a welcome contrast to the endless series of three-minute hits one is subjected to on the radio. This stuff should be mainlined to counteract the debilitating effects of rush-hour commuting, and is particularly effective through stereo headphones, building up waves of sound that crash back and forth across your skull and cast up stray thoughts on the beach. (tape) (MG)

LITTLE FYODOR, "Slither" (PO Box 1093, Boulder, CO 80306): This guy makes noise with WALLS OF GENIUS but has now escaped to put out music of his own. Soon the men in white coats will catch up with him and this will be a rarity. Some of the same sorts of electronic noise and heavy percussion that WOG specializes in, but in this case Little Fyodor fronts it with his own vocals, which actually seem to be more short stories than songs. Maybe he should be submitting to literary mags or something. Anyhow, whether he knows

It or not, this is due to be an underground hit, as he spouts perfect SubGenius dogma on the final cut, "Doomed": "I guess you have to spend your money on something, so go ahead and spend it!...while it's still worth something..." (EP) (MG)

LOST GENERATION, "Victim" (Incas Records, 272 Benham Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604): Loud rock with mostly depressing lyrics ("Just another victim, you're next in line" and "It's a pity, it's a shame, got messed up, I'm to blame", for example) but a nice sound nonetheless. Joe Dias's adaptable vocals and good backing from the rest of the band make them stand out from the pack. The album starts out with "Loud and Proud", a paean to guitar amps, and ends on an apocalyptic note with "Tough Guy", with the band waiting for the final battle, which is sure to come quickly for these punkers. (LP) (MG)

MAGIC MOSE AND HIS ROYAL ROCKERS FEATURING 'BLIND SAM', "I'm Dreaming of a Noir Xmas" (Arf Arf Records, PO Box 954, East Dennis, MA 02641): This is actually due for release in time for the '86 holiday season, so I figured FF could get the jump on everyone by reviewing it now. The title cut is sort of film noir translated to music -- the soul-influenced tune concerns a guy who has to work as a sleazy detective even during the holidays. Better is the B-side, "Have Yourselves a Groovy Little Solstice", in which the Royal Rockers go live as a typical lounge lizard band and sing one for all the neo-pagans in the audience. After all, Yule was their holiday before it was ours. A Christmas tune for the whole year. (45) (MG)

MANGLED CLIT demo (PO Box 1104, Bellmore, NY 11710): This is heavy metal music at its ultimate and perhaps worst. The music itself is heavy enough, and metallic enough, to satisfy most any fan of the genre, but the lyrics are another story. Although the mix on this demo is extremely muddy, enough words can be made out to feel safe in assuming that the band has succeeded in its goal of writing lyrics that as "offensive, original, sick, and, above all, entertaining" -- or at least three out of four. From "Torturin' Mary-Allen" to the title track at the end, there is no socially redeeming value here at all; and the music isn't good or humorous enough to make up for this. (tape) (MG)

MAP OF THE WORLD, "Hiroshima Girls" (Stigmata Records, 1101 Pomona Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103): MOTW is a relatively young four-piece with an extremely clean sound -- in fact, the mix on this record is so clean as to be almost sterile. The best cut here is the cover of Willy Nelson and Patsy Cline's "Crazy", which provides a showcase for the breathtaking vocals of lead singer Sophia Hanafi. But these folks are going to have to do more than just good covers if they want to make it as a pop band. (EP) (MG)

N.O.T.A., self-titled (Rabid Cat Records, PO Box 49263, Austin, TX 78765): Their name stands for "None Of The Above". These Okies rule: this is my Skinhead LP of '85, easily filling the shoes of NYC's much-maligned Agnostic Front who last year ruled with "Victim in Pain". The difference is that nobody accuses N.O.T.A. of being Nazis -- but my fave cut is "War on Wankers" with the lyrics "War on wankers/Gonna fuck them up/With a baseball bat/I don't care/What anyone thinks of that". But really, these guys are skinhead peace punks at heart, very P.C. The music is the perfect combination of American thrash and English oi. Don't miss this if hardcore ain't a dirty word to you. (LP) (SW)

OCCUPANT, "Occupant Graveyard" (\$7 CASH/MO from Occupant Sound Labs, PO Box 30195, Knoxville, TN 37930-0195): This package includes a 7-song tape, a collage booklet with lyrics and other goodies, and three mini-posters. I had to have my tape player exorcised after playing this one (it was mysteriously set to fast-forward and deleted all vocals), but after that was done, I grew to appreciate the synthesizer sound and debilitating vocals of Occupant. My fave raves here are "Brain Brain", with a melody as penetrating as a dentist's drill and lyrics that lead to psychoses, the party tune "Beanie Head", and the definitive Occupant morality tune "Party Bears" ("We're the Party Bears, we tumble down the stairs, we lure nubile young ladies into our stereo lair"). The collage graphics nicely complement the songs. (tape) (MG)

OH NO!, "Giant Mantis" b/w "Cementhead" (Richard James & Assoc., PO Box 327, Levittown, NY 11756): First there were the Spiders from Mars, then Blondie gave us Giant Ants, and now this fairly standard three-piece rock group comes out with Giant Mantis. Well, no big deal there. The B side is long better with the refrain "When you watch the mutant TV your brain gets

really hard" running in between classic quotes from Mr. Rogers and Ronco and other folks we all know and love. As they say on the promo sheet: "it's not a band, it's three guys with nothing better to do". (45) (MG)

OWN THE WHOLE WORLD #11/12 (9 22 cents stamps & a blank C-90 cassette from Bob Forward, 812 Stadelman Ave., Akron, OH 44320): Now pay attention, boys and girls: this is a fanzine with a tape, or a tape with written accompaniment, take your pick. The zine consists mainly of leftover reviews of other zines and lots of music that didn't make it into the previous OTWW. Much of the music is reviewed in an entertainingly rambling style as Bob works his way through the pile of junk on his desk. The tape is a compilation of stuff sent to OTWW; with Bob's tastes, it is pretty eclectic, playing around the edge of music and well beyond. Nothing here I would call punk, although there are a few pop-type tunes, my favorite being The Bizarros' "The Big Sleep". But then there's the stranger stuff: radio collages ("Radio Canada"), found noise ("F-Train"), and mixes of unclassifiable sounds ("The Pulpit That Exploded"). As with many low-budget compilations, the production is spotty, but there are gems among the murk for those willing to listen. (zine & tape) (MG)

C. ALLEN PARKER, "Polychroma" (\$5.98 from Liquid Sun of O-Arts, 2035 E. 33rd So. #104, Salt Lake City, UT 84109): This music was made with a couple of synthesizers and a vocoder, and is quite different from the mainstream of synth music. The first cut, "Sunrise on Uthaea", is filled with exotic, jungle sounds, birds twittering, small animals chattering, all blending together to make an experience rather than a tune. The rest of this side features a variety of haunting, sometimes distorted vocals and a varied soundtrack of noises, sometimes ping-ponging rapidly from one speaker to the other. This is particularly eerie through headphones. The B-side is filled with "Polychroma (The Sigmus Draconis IV Adventure)" which is a SF story without words, exploring the system, landing, looking around and first contact included. The only complaint I have about this tape is that there is too much dead air on it. (tape) (MG)

POISON GIRLS, "Songs of Praise" (\$6 + \$2.50 p&h from CD Presents, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133): This English punk band, fronted by 47-year-old Vi Subversa, has drawn a lot of good press lately (on the negative side, I've heard "I don't want to listen to someone who sounds like my mother sing" a few times) and I think they deserve it. Much has been written about the politically-correct feminist lyrics, but not enough attention has been paid to Vi's expressive delivery and the rhythmic, quirky music behind her. The sound is polished to perfection and the record is well-mixed. There are lots of other things that could be said but the bottom line is that I like this record a lot, as music and as politics. (LP) (MG)

RAT PACK, self-titled (Mystic Record Group, 6277 Selma Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): The best cut is anti-Reagan with the catchy chorus "4 More Years of Reagan", so I guess that makes this generic Mystic Core, but as the reader probably knows that isn't a turn-off to me. This band is a solid rock outfit, whose professional execution outweighs the fact it isn't totally original in conception. Maybe not Mystic's most important band, but a good one. (EP) (SW)

SAVOY SOUND, "Wave Goodbye" (\$4 + \$2.50 p&h from CD Presents, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133): This is a live compilation album recorded at the short-lived Savoy Sound nightclub in San Francisco, which was apparently a hotbed of musical experimentation back in 1981. Much of the music sounds like vaguely-directed Jamming, playing with rhythms and noises, and just plain musicians having fun. Notable sets include those by Tuxedomoon, Snakefinger, and Skankin' Babylonians. Toe-tapping background music for any party. (LP) (MG)

SHADES OF GREY, "Humble Friction" (2195 Alta Vista Dr., Twin Falls, ID 83301): This is good old rock and roll, although SOG are capable of a lot of different styles: "Complete the Frontside" is their Skate Punk song, "Queen Bee" is a near-hardcore tribute to Mayberry RFD, and "You Can't Live if You Die" is a rockabilly-influenced anti-drunk driving number. On the other hand "Dance On" is pure party rock and "Humble Friction" is on the edge of punk. This demo tape is marred by muddy recording, but still a lot of fun. Idaho isn't dead yet. (tape) (MG)

SPOPTZIES, "Wait Till the Drugs Kick In" (\$5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 24661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A lot of different styles of music

on this one, but the basic backbone of the Skoptcies is the strong drum line and the eerie synthesizer interweavings provided by Chris Phinney. Side A in particular sounds like sci-fi background music to me, to use an overworked metaphor, but it's far less predictable than any soundtrack would be. There are a couple of live cuts included on this tape, with strange, disturbing vocals that set just outside the edge of human perception. All in all, a great package of experimental music. (tape) (MG)

"Suburban Uprising", the JERSEY BEAT compilation (\$4 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): From the editor of JERSEY BEAT pfnzine, this one is quite an achievement, with one side each of punk and pop. This tape is quite an achievement, with excellent sound and a great choice of material. THE PUNK SIDE: Not thrash after thrash, but a sampler with variety. Adrenalin OD, Jersey's #1 hardcore band w/ trash metal and are funnier than the Ramones; Swingers doing a song that would fit right in with Iggy; incredibly-intense self-titled song by Sacred Denial, and the Dolls-like but much crisper Skulls all stand out on this side. THE POP SIDE: An eclectic but listenable selection. The best cut is Tiny Lights' "Flowers Through the Air", a post-psychedelic romp with cello, bells, and a beautiful vocal line. Other standouts include the Bandables (see FF14 and FF15) and all-girl Frozen Concentrate. OVERALL: These 18 bands are all great and the compilation itself is a worthwhile sampling of NJ music. Essential. (tape) (SW/MG).

SURREAL ESTATES #5 (\$1.50 CASH ONLY from PO Box 23061, Knoxville, TN 37933): This is the latest issue of the SURREAL ESTATES zine, mutated into audio form and providing oddball entertainment for the privileged few. Editor Revo collected contributions from 2 dozen SubGenii, surrealists and fellow travelers into this eclectic mix. Things range from electronic music, to disco as abused by the Rev. Ivan Stang, to spoken-word pieces, to found sounds and other kibble. Overall this tape has a very SubGenius flavor, perhaps because the SubG's are used to working in the medium and so provided the best submissions. While the occasional profanity and spotty quality might turn some off, I'd say any true lunatic would be vastly pleased with this tape. I didn't detect any Satanic back-masking, but of course the post-hypnotic suggestions could have made me forget it. (tape) (MG)

TESTUBE CASSETTEZINE #E (\$3 from PO Box 8421, Columbus, OH 43201): This zine has made the leap to tape and improved in the process. Produced on a roughly quarterly schedule, each issue of TESTUBE now contains recordings grouped around some major theme. #D was an all-Ohio issue, while this one is an electronic music compilation with songs from 5 countries. The electronic bent of the music seems to lead naturally to the psychedelic lyrics displayed by some of the bands; I was particularly taken by EXIT GIRLS "The Spider Song". While much of this music is previously released, the idea of a compilation cassette drawing together and preserving the best is a good one. (tape) (MG)

THEATRE OF ICE, "Mouse Blood" (PO Box 2262, Provo, Utah 84603-2262): This is a retrospective tape composed of material from TOI's past releases, and serves as an excellent introduction to this horror rock band. Personal favorites include the guitar-laden, upbeat "Myron" -- sort of Beach Boys gone Gothic -- and "A Cool Dark Place to Die", title cut from their previous tape, which is not for the easily-depressed. While this tape is a limited edition mostly for promoting their new address, if you send them \$5 I'm sure you'll get something in return. (tape) (MG)

TH'INBRED, "Reproduction" (563 First St., Morgantown, WV 26505): After side 1, I thought I had these guys pegged as another angry young rock band, what with their anti-MTV song and "The Shit Pile", with its depressing lyrics ("It doesn't matter whether you're on the top or bottom of the shitpile"). But then came side 2, particularly "Packaged Time", a musical explanation of the Situationist concept of The Spectacle, and I realized that this band also had something to say. A nice balance -- good, loud, driving rock and intelligent lyrics, with neither drowning the other out. Watch for another release soon. (EP) (MG)

U.B.R., "Corpus Delecti" (Diaverly Prod, Via Molinelli 19, 40136 Bologna, ITALY -- US distributor Systematic): This is punk. It is fast. It is loud. The lyrics are supplied in Italian, in English, and in the language used on the record (something further East; I don't know them apart). The lyrics are more or less politically correct -- Diaverly bills themselves as a libertarian activist collective -- but I am afraid they lose some impact when I can't follow them in real time. However, the music compares favorably

to American hardcore that I've heard. (EP) (MG)

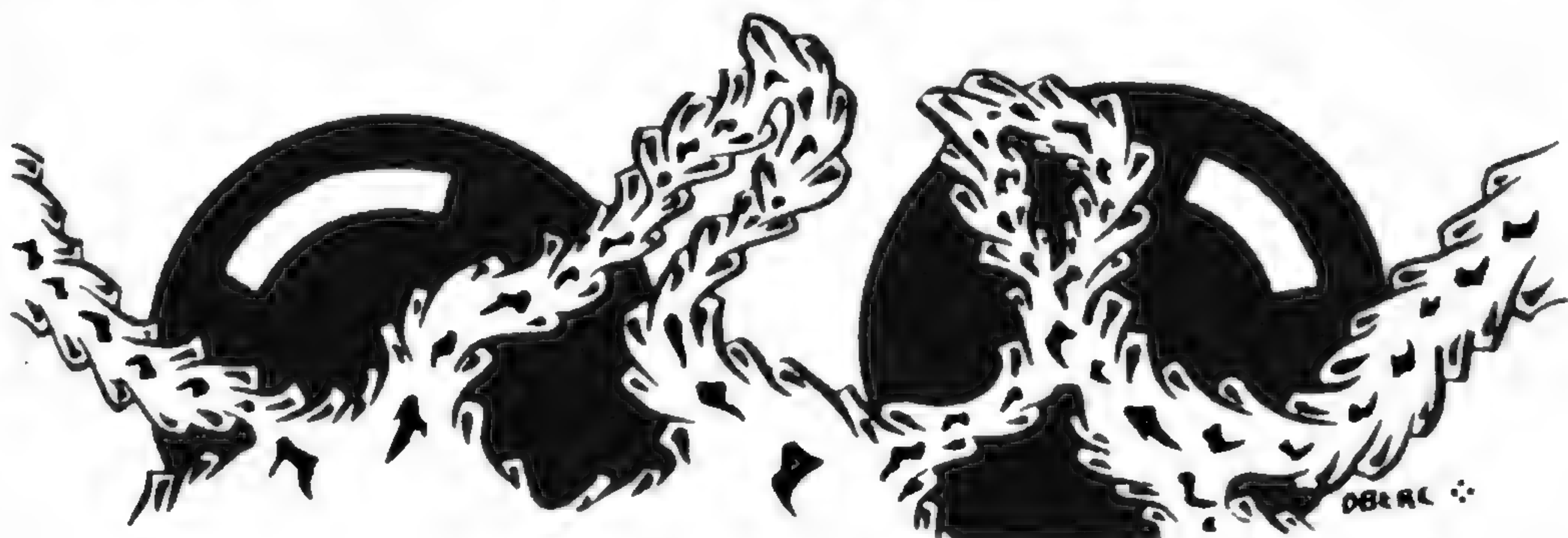
UGLY AMERICANS, "Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed" (Death Records, 22458 Ventura Blvd. #E, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 -- distributed by Enigma): Here's the record that gives the lie to Flipside's contention that metalcore sucks. I think they're reacting against the mentality of some of the people getting into it in LA -- but this band out of North Carolina manages to weld the two styles together in as seamless a way as Ruin did with one of my '84 faves "He-Ho". On listening it seems at first that these guys have lyrics like The Mentors or the legendary Angry Samoans. In other words it seems like the lyrics are meant to offend. Then you read the lyric sheet and see how artfully writer Simon Bob has managed to take his politically correct ideals and make them sound like they mean just the opposite. Great album, just wish it was longer. The tempo isn't always as fast as thrash, but the LP isn't typical of thrash records, here we get under 10 songs taking over twenty minutes instead of 15 songs and 30 minutes. Still not as short as an EP. (LP) (SW)

VERBAL ASSAULT, "The Masses Tape" (\$2.50 from Pete, 20 Bateman Ave., Newport, RI 02840): Good hardcore. Very heavy music, a little like Underground Soldier, who I said reminded me of Black Flag. I wouldn't call this metalcore. I'd just say hardcore. Then again it's as close to metalcore as to thrash. Some might even call it generic, so let's settle on "good shit". If they stay together and get some vinyl out hardcore freaks nationwide will be slamming to 'em and waiting for 'em to hit town. Keep up the noise, boys. (tape) (SW)

WALLS OF GENIUS AND MIRACLE #1 (\$4.50 from Evan Cantor, PO Box 1093, Boulder, CO 80306): WOG is a zany bunch previously reviewed in these pages (see FF14), while MIRACLE is a more industrial group from the same area. Put them in the same room to jam for 45 minutes at a time, and you get this free jazz/noise stuff that brings forth animalistic images for reviewers to play with: A xylophone made from dinosaur bones...a wild horse with its tail caught in a vise...two songbirds sucked into a turbojet...an elephant having an altercation with a rattlesnake...This music is flowing, almost alive, ever-changing but with a basic backbone of percussion and saxophones to hold it all together. A definite leap forward for experimental music. (tape) (MG)

A WESTERN FRONT, "4 Song EP" (Orange Records West, PO Box 2430, Santa Clara, CA 95055-2430): These guys have taken some flak for being too derivative, but on the other hand, some of us like classic Beatles-type stuff. I must not be the only one because a couple of these cuts are from the soundtrack of the movie THE CENSUS TAKER. Anyhow, my vote for the best cut goes to "Pelican World", a lyrical little number that makes me want to smoke lots of dope and lie on my back in a park someplace warmer than Boston. "Ten Steps" is an excellent showcase for the band in a more original mode, with instrumental credits for confusion guitar and toys and a vocal line that weaves amongst all the strings without getting bogged down or sounding cutesy-poo. The other two songs here are also good. Watch out for these guys, not in FLIPSIDE maybe, but on your local pop station. (EP) (MG)

Apologies to those who have sent music but not seen it reviewed in print here. We do intend to get to everything, but the production hassles this month have backed us up a bit. If we got two or more records from one place, we've reviewed one above; otherwise, I've tried to hold over those things which Shane can give more knowledgeable reviews to than I can. With any luck we'll get this all straightened out over the next quarter.



LAW

AND

ORDER

by Garry De Young

I'm tempted to write an article explaining why typewriters should be licensed but the problem here is that every anarchist in the country would be among those to give preliminary approval and then they would form an organization named ANARCHISTS FOR LAW AND ORDER and they would be the very first to take typewriters away from William F. Buckley and others who are desperately trying to learn how to take command of the English language.

So NO!

Adamantly I must decline.

Think for a moment if George Will were deprived of his typewriter, or the illustrious man from Virginia, James Kilpatrick. Why then the only people left with typewriters would be people with intelligence, education and sanity.

Then too, there is the definite possibility that the Pentagon and all court stenographers in America would not qualify for licensing.

The problem is a massive one. First of all, who is going to do the licensing? Who will prepare the tests for licensing? Certainly not the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. They already have their hands full keeping people out of law school and medical school and writing programs for computers which will keep our kids illiterate.

The next question which arises is how much to charge for a license? Certainly it would be advantageous to hold such a license. It would be the equivalent of an Imprimatur by the Pope and almost as valuable as an ordination certificate.

No! These are weighty problems not to be taken lightly. I should think that a Doctor of Divinity degree would have to be a prerequisite to enter the training program for typewriter license candidates.

Sorry to disappoint you but I will not write a column recommending the federal licensing of all typewriters.

We already have licensing of our speech over the airwaves and our private schools must have certified teachers -- certified by the state. That takes care of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Freedom of the press and all other forms of writing which might be legally construed to fall in that category must be restricted by a more stringent means than by licensing. It seems to me that the safest way to handle this is to completely abolish all forms of writing and then our country will be safe.

(Editor's note: I'd like to welcome our newest columnist to FACTSHEET FIVE. Garry is a former bureaucrat who has unfortunate illusions about the principles by which this country is run. He's been in and out of court numerous times in defense of those principles, starting back when he was fired for protesting a black co-worker's discriminatory dismissal. Some of his efforts have gone as high as the UN Commission on Human Rights. Despite his setbacks in dealing with the legal system, Garry maintains his sense of humor, and raises blackberries when he is not trying to outrage his anarchist friends.)

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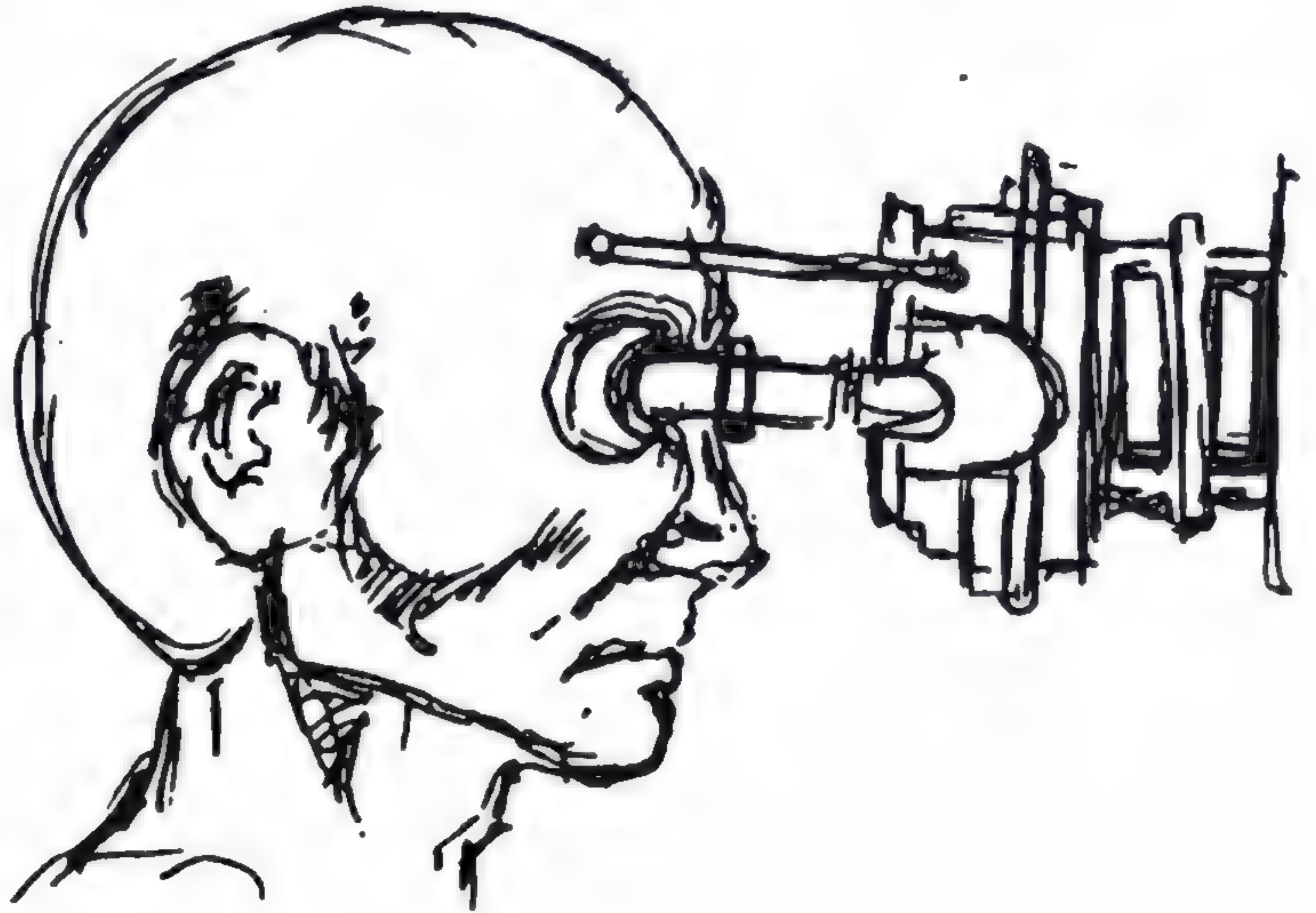
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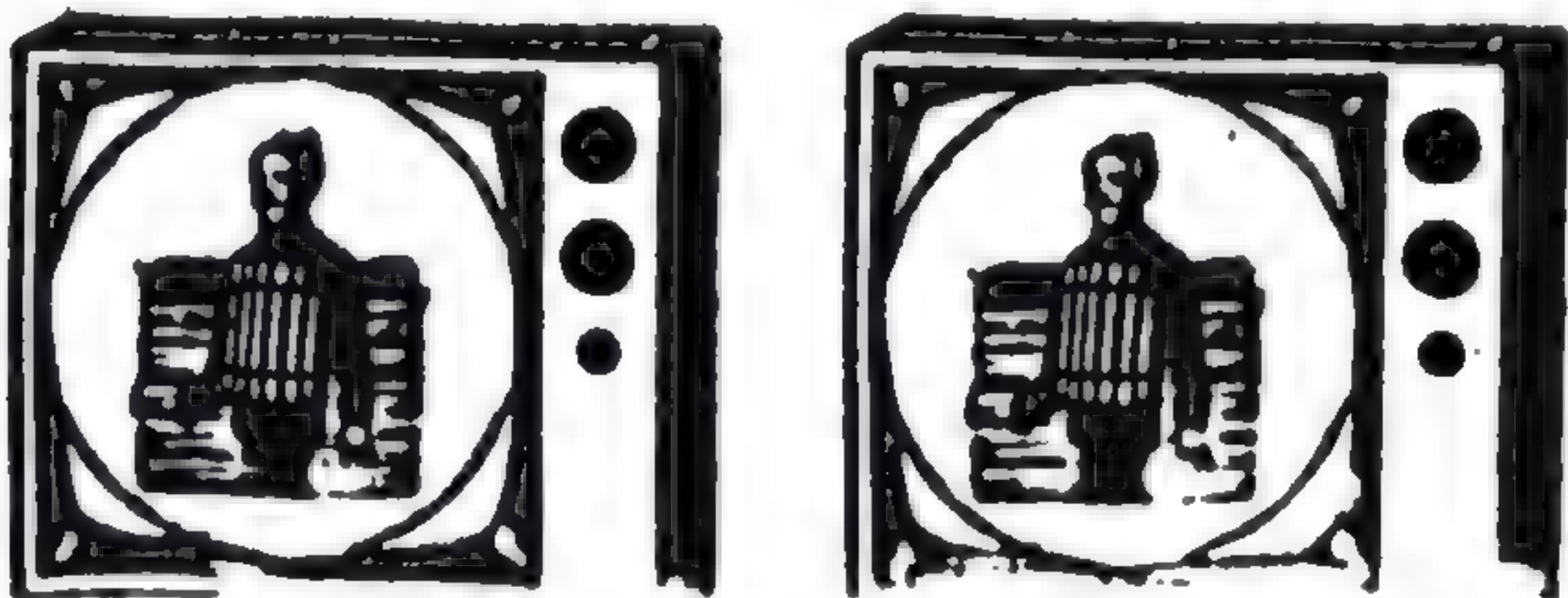
Hev, new things happen every quarter. This time a couple of folks sent videotapes for our review. Well, we're happy to oblige, and we'll be happy to review more such if anyone else wants to send them. VHS format only, please.

BOMB SHELTER VIDEOS (PO Box 102993, Anchorage, AK 99510): Part of the growing Anchorage music underground, BSV shows on cable up there twice weekly, featuring stuff you'll never see on MTV. The particular tape they sent me features live shows from D.O.A., The Psychedelic Skeletons, Skate Death and others, plus rock videos from The Clvng-Onz and the Minutemen. Also an interview with the members of D.O.A., fanzine and record reviews, and lots of good fun. Best of all, they're always on the lookout for more stuff to publicize -- send your rock video in on 3/4" or 1/2" video tape for consideration. I wish we had something like this in Beantown.



UFO REPORT #1 (\$9.95 + \$20 deposit for 2 week rental from Frys, 22511 Markham, Perris, CA 92370): Two hours of what are generally called "artist's conceptions" of less-than-comic quality, presented as a series of still pictures with a voice over. If there are so many authenticated sightings how come there are no photos or motion pictures here? This tape does nothing to convince me of the existence of UFOs, supplying nothing more than you could find in the Sunday funnies, without any references or direct evidence. A study in gullibility.

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see review elsewhere in this issue
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PENNED IN

by Shane Williams

Bob Dylan. I don't know what the name evokes in you, but to me the label "super-talented but wrong-headed guy" lights up. He is perhaps my single greatest and earliest influence, but by the time I got into him he'd had his 'cycle crash and changed his anarchic tone to the Nashville Skyline sound. Well now he is back in the news a lot. A 5-record set was so impressive that it got reviewed in TIME and NEWSWEEK and ROLLING STONE along with interviews of the man in various places, and of all this stuff what struck me the most was that Dylan really honestly believes that there is a supreme being and a moral authority governing the universe. From the Genius who gave us HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED, BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME and BLONDE ON BLONDE, I find this profoundly sad. It's utterly plebian that his faith took root in his surviving that fateful crash. Am I the only one who wonders what Dylan's music and views would've been if he'd never become a believer and continued to think that belief was nothing but a facade for soceltv's oppressors to abuse? I'm getting pompous but my point is "DYLAN IS WRONG" and someday I'll write a song about it but til then I'm just letting the readers and the universe know that for all my love of the man's music and the influence his phrasing has had on my own I think the man is a fool.

We were hoping to have a tape of my music available for this ish. Well, maybe next time. I do want to report that I played in the Leavenworth Christmas Show, calling my band DEPRIVITY KLUBB, and that I climaxed the set and the show by flailing around on the ground thrashing my guitar. By the way, the last line of the song is/was "That's as far as my magic goes" -- and yes, it is.

FORCED EXPOSURE (719 Washington St. #172, Newtonville, MA 02160; \$8/vr): Last time I reviewed this baby I got a little tongue-tied. Let me be a little more straightforward this time. THIS ZINE IS GOD. While not trying to blaspheme against the Lord High on Heaven zine FLIPSIDE, this baby is twice as thick -- over 100 pages -- and even more divine. While lacking the networking shit like zine lists and classifieds FE has tons of record reviews by two guys who have some of the best collections around and actually enjoy writing reviews. They're a little derivative of Meltzer/Bangs, but so what. If all the zine had to offer was record reviews I wouldn't be raving, but the artwork in here is incredible, the interviews are huge and unexpurgated, more Nick Cave plays and Chris D. prose are included, great photos throughout, legendary Roky Erickson and his Mom are interviewed by phone!! -- and last but not least there is a book review section that emphasizes Philip K. Dick and brings to reader attention the Ace SF series that includes 2 of the best books of '85, PALIMPSESTS and NEUROMANCER. To put it concisely and in a manner I hope will convey proper adulation: I will not rest until my name is on the list of contributors to this zine.

FLIPSIDE #47 (Box 363, Whittier, CA 90068, \$6/4 issues): #1 in the hearts and minds of its countrymen FLIPSIDE prints two things of mine in the letters section this issue, and hopefully two more next time. Above and beyond that Donny the Punk Interviews Scream and AL interviews U.K. Conflict,

big-Mohican types who sound pretty cool in their interview: peace-punks but not narrow-minded leftists. Nice format for zine reviews, loads of essential classifieds, and Al and Hud's personalities pervading in a truly positive punk way. The best pfanzine ever.

FOR YOUR SKULL #10 (833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): This time Carrie concentrates on her strongest point: her art and the art of others. We're talking punk art, comix; a rose by any other name and all that. Really entertaining pleasing stuff. Don't miss her illo of worthless Mohicans begging on the streets of LA, and what about "Confessions of a Death Rocker"? I like her art so much that you should soon see her stuff bordering this very column, plus she and I will be collaborating elsewhere, perhaps in FYS. She and her buddy Sarah have been doing some great mini-comix too. Spend them whatever stamps or money you can spare: they turn every spare cent to putting out their art.

JERSEY BEAT #24 (418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087; \$5/vr): The last issue had an insert called Teen Punk with my "self-exam" piece that you might have seen around. Why he extracted that and some other punk info to do as an insert zine I'm not really sure. This ish is in the regular format and includes numerous reviews, including one on THROWING MUSES who our editor is in love but not lust with (he leaves lusting after femme rockers to me) and a review of Scornflakes, whose tape got their bass player drafted by Black Flag. Holsapple of DBs should've-been-fame interviewed and Jim's own band, The Love Pushers, examined. A goodie.

OPTION (Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049 \$12/yr): One of the most interesting things about this one is the commentary on New Music America: a big festival of contemporary (as in experimental academic art) music that took place in LA. You can also read about Soundscapes, Music of Peru, and Peter Hamill, one of the all-time most important figures in British rock. The alphabet scheme has faded too -- I guess it's been chucked. They still call this the F2 issue, but just read that as #6 -- they screwed up and called it '85 instead of '86 too. Pretty much of a must for musical encyclopedists.

JET LAG #60 (8419 halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63147; \$12/yr): Up to #60 and they're offering grab bags of back issues. This is a really consistent zine considering that in the year or so worth that I've seen they've had a couple of editorial switches. But all that is irrelevant. High points here are a better than ever letter section, a lengthy review of when the Minutemen (D. Boon RIP) came to town and had to play with "local heavy metal cover bands" and tales of their campout with Jet Lagers afterwards. Also Meat Puppets tell all as in "the reason it sounded the way it did was because we had a lot of really primo MDA which we snorted for the entire recording session." Of continuing interest in their pages has been the story of a dickhead station manager kicking the punk/alternative music show off the air saying "I don't want any electric fuzz guitars on my station." Aargh. This means war.

AN-AESTHETIC #1 (Box 64613, Los Angeles, CA 90064; \$1.75): An LA zine that wimps out to the max. Except for Wanda's sexy poem with sweat and urine erotically depicted this one is sterile. Well I'm being kind of harsh but let me put it like this: anyone who thinks Billy Bragg is important kind of loses me. Actually it's real well laid out and pretty pro looking for a first issue, but I don't think I like the idea of this being an LA zine.

MIDNIGHT METROPOLITAN MODERN MAGAZINE (3175 S. Hoover #191, Los Angeles, CA 90007; \$2): A newsish zine that covers way trendy Hollywood late night dress-up scene and a lot of the best rock around. They're not afraid to talk about both kinds of Death Rock: The Death Metal of Slayer and the Death Disco of the late night dance spots. Musical diversity is even wider than that because there are a lot of photos of hardcore punks too. A real FANzine: one contributor followed the Sisters of Mercy around on their last tour and tells the bad and the good. Their singer Eldritch makes it on the cover along with Marv +5 Grave. Free classifieds, looking for more contributors, and they print scene reports.

PARADOX (676 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602; send stamps or money): Almost all art, great art too. Lots by Carrie, with most by Yuri, the editor, who has a Black Flag obsession and likes to illustrate their songs. Don't miss his scene report. Looking for contributors.

MY WIFE (PO Box 19012, Minneapolis, MN 55419; \$1.31): A two-page comeback from the anally-obsessed guy who brought back over 100 pieces of vinyl from his one semester stay in England and who still had to order a c ette or farting noises. You know he's God if Michael Voodoo was butting his arse because he likes it so much. Besides, Bull's mug on 's backside looks like an especially rosy rectum.

TWEEN MALICE #1 (PO Box 24102, Memphis, TN 38101; send a stamp) and his zine MALICE wasn't coming out enough, so he decided to put

this out whenever necessary to fill the gaps and so material he reviews won't get outdated. This ish contains my widely distributed "Self Examination" piece prominently displayed and a live report on Memphis and plenty of reviews. Chris seems to have interpolated the criticisms made against MALICE by certain persons and put a few negative reviews in this one -- MALICE is at the cutting edge of the blade that is punk on one side and experimental on the other. Keep up with good tunes and Tennessee happenings here.

OUTER SHELL (PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734 - send SASE): One page zine with varied info for such a small format. Roy wants more contributions too. While he is into New Wave and pop he is very openminded and has printed my punk-inspired rants. He might not be a punk but he likes angry journalism. Also local news and interviews with local acts he is impressed with. Wide distribution too, check him out.

MISERY (#9 in a series of Bloody Mess publications, 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614. \$1 and/or stamps): WOW! Pun intended. Since Bloody's big scoop here is an interview with the Wow girl herself, Wendy O. Williams. Ex-Plasmatics, now solo star -- she still believes in cutting TVs apart but it's obvious her real love is heavy music and getting to sing -- and what a nice girl, asking Bloody about his latest accomplishments instead of being so self-centered. The antithesis of a female Rollins except for their mutual interest in bulging biceps. The rest of the issue is filled with Bloody's usual melange of local gig reviews, obscure artists on tape, punk bands with product, and a cover by Sloane who also has art in the new FORCED EXPOSURE. Bloody gets around -- even John Hinckley, Jr. writes him begging letters for his zine. Now he's offering back issues -- get 'em and get dis!

My apologies to the zines I got since last ish and didn't review above because of getting thrown in the hole and seperated from my pile of stuff. All of these were received after I was locked up or written from memory.

LABEL SPOTLIGHTS

DEATH RECORDS (22458 Ventura Blvd., Suite E, Woodland Hills, CA 91364): A subsidiary of METAL BLADE who are distributed via ENIGMA who used to have the same address as PARADOX MAIL ORDER but when DEATH sent their catalog it was for PVC COLLECTIBLES -- hope you're all confused. Last I heard they had four artists: Corrosion of Conformity and Ugly Americans, both North Carolina metalcore; D.R.I., a Texas transplant to the bay area and the fastest band in thrash when they want to be (stands for Dirty Rotten Imbeciles) and The Mentors, LA's sado-punks, quoted at the Washington Wives hearings for their toilet sex lyrics. Hey, these are cool bands with great releases. I hope this label grows -- and lowers their prices!

RABID CAT RECORDS (PO Box 49263, Austin, TX 78765): Fantastic Texas label who have lots of nifty T-shirts available and stickers plus the vinyl from Scratch Acid (a friend described them as a cross between Birthday party and Alien Sex Fiend -- wow!). N.O.T.A., The Offenders, Not For Sale and soon, Cargo Cult. Here's a label that carefully picks acts they themselves love, and then puts a bit of money into ads too. They care and you ought to.

BAD COMPILATION TAPES (PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): A one-man monolithic and megalopic project. Chris solicits thrash and all punk from everywhere and everyone, puts it on cassettes and sells them just above cost. I doubt if he breaks even. The man is dedicated to hardcore. And listen to this: he's a Christian (more or less) and his wife thinks his hobby is a bit strange, to say the least. Chris is one cool punk man, so support his label. He does some trading too. So buy his shit at \$4 a whack (catalog available for a few stamps) or send him yours for almost certain inclusion if it's punk and decent sound.

FRESH SOUNDS was reviewed in FF16, but due to editorial incompetence Bill Rich's name was spelled wrong and we left out the address: PO Box 36, Lawrence, KS 66044. Sorry, Bill.

IS HENRY ROLLINS AN ASSHOLE?

Well, we all have what is archaically known as the fundament, so maybe that makes us all "assholes" in a sense. But is Henry a bigger asshole than the rest of us? To use some prison concepts, is it possible that he doesn't make any noise when he farts because his asshole is too big?

But let it not be said that I came to bury Henry, not to praise him -- I'm gonna attempt to be objective in answering the anal question.

It there is one thing that convinces me that he has a wawning rectal

cavity it is the fact that, while he could be working exclusively with one of the greatest bands in the world (anytime, anywhere), he treks around the country reciting poetry and then gets mad when people call it that because he hates that word. I have it on good authority that he is now so comfortable with his recitative persona that he closes his eyes and rocks back and forth, resembling an orthodox jew at prayer as much as he does any beat coffeehouse poet.

Maybe Greg, guitar god and central figure of the band Henry sings for, BLACK FLAG (in case any of you out there resemble ostriches) likes doing some instrumental stuff, maybe he thinks Henry is an asshole and periodically tells him, "Go out and spew verbiage for a few months so I can play my guitar without listening to your incessant solipsistic bullshit."

But that is unfair, because one of the reasons I find it hard to believe Henry is an asshole is because his words and voice do fit so well with Greg's music. They seem to have a creative partnership likely to last for a while, and even if I'm wrong about that they have been prolific so far.

You see, usually when I really like the way a guy sings and the kinds of lyrics he writes I think he is anything but an asshole -- I think he is a cool guy. But now that the fanzine nation is so huge and the guy in question has had more than his share of attention and interviews it is hard not to start perceiving him as an asshole when he says so many obnoxious things.

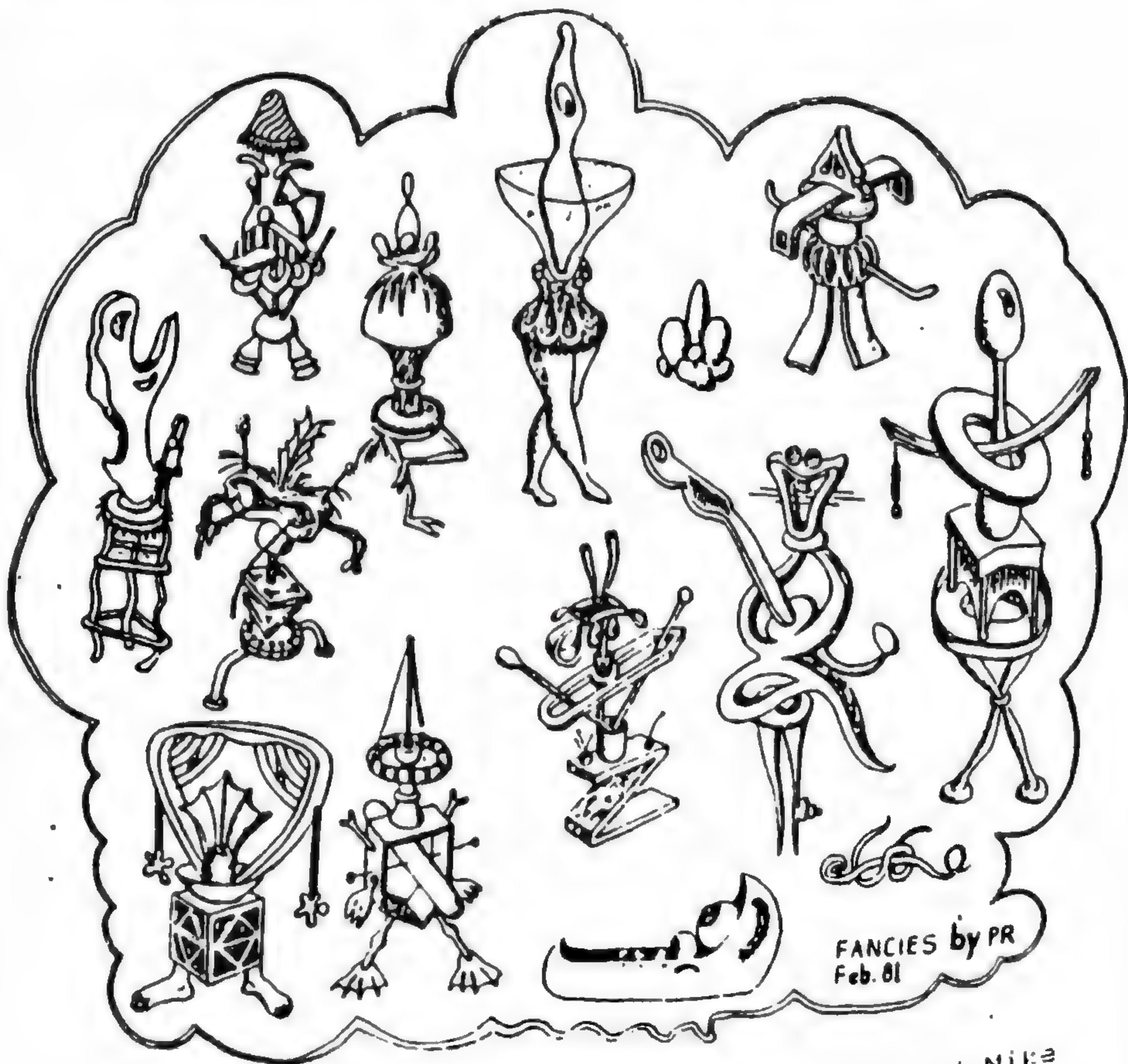
If I had my whole collection at fingertip access I might try to go through all the Rollins interviews and give you verbatim quotes. Since I don't I'm just gonna piss out my pantleg and paraphrase a few things I remember him saying. No footnotes or endnotes, but maybe someday I'll go back and do this right.

Two sympathetic interviewers approach him, they want to try to talk about a few things that are serious and not just do an interview in terms of adulation. Henry winds up telling them they could never understand him because he is so far beyond them and they have nothing in common. In the same interview he wants to know why they're asking him questions about John Lennon, and suggests that Hitler might be more appropriate. Well in my book Lennon has some parallels with Henry -- ya know they both are/were rock singers -- whereas Henry would need his own country or political party or at least his own Gestapo before he could be identified with a dictator.

Actually I can forgive him for giving these guys a hard time, because one of them was wearing a Clash T-shirt, and I had to agree with Henry when he said that if the Clash are considered punk rock then Black Flag isn't (actually the truth is the reverse: Black Flag is and the Clash are not).

OK, but what about all those times he's been asked about what other bands he likes -- why does he always claim there aren't that many and then he relents and names a few on SST Records, the label Black Flag owns and operates? That seems like good business, but a little asshole-ian in light of the fact that Henry is somewhat of a record and tape collector and listens to lots of good stuff that he could compliment when given the opportunity. He is being trendy too. It seems like all the punk bands who get a little recognition claim they are the only thing worth listening to: that's what both Bob Mould of Husker Du and Mike Ness of Suicidal Tendencies said recently (and I'm only exaggerating a little).

Now it might seem like my objectivity is wavering and that I am leaning



FACTSHEET FIVE #1

towards answering the anal titular question in the affirmative -- but WAIT! The mere fact that Henry is a collector and music enthusiast virtually precludes him from being an asshole in my biased book on that subject. And for every few people who say he is rude in person another couple say he is extremely easy to talk to, and tolerant enough not to act like a rock star to the young teens who approach him. He'll sign autographs, the works. It almost sounds like he is a manic-depressive or a schizophrenic -- but anyone who writes lyrics about those very states of mind is almost a sure bet to be eminently sane.

What really impressed me were the two humorous pieces he wrote for SPIN (There have been more than two. I think, but I've only read the ones on 7-11s and Madonna). After reading those and being so thoroughly entertained it became hard to hold this idea in my head. "Henry is an asshole because he gives poetry readings and is often rude to people." I mean the same thing could be said about R. Meltzer, and he is the epitome of a cool, cool guy. I bring Meltzer up (he being the #1 rock critic after Lester Bangs died) because Henry's humor, while not imitative of Meltzer, gives off that same aura of self-deprecatory ultra-cool.

Hey, I'm like everyone else! I have an asshole of my own. I have an opinion -- and my opinion is that Henry is a good humorist, could probably be a good critic, ought to save his words for songs and knock off hte readings -- or else just publish books if he gets too many words to sing 'em all.

I can't bring myself to call anyone an asshole who sings for one of my favorite bands and has brought me hour adter hour of listening pleasure. And besides, I'm not convinced that he is all that big of an asshole. I'll keep an open mind to the possibility that he needs to use a butt plug to keep his drawers clean, but anyone who can get a cool cartoon like HANK GARFIELD drawn because of inspiration can't be all that uncool.

Verdict, verdict, what about a verdict? Screw the verdict, as the backing vocals go on one of the latest Flag ditties, "It's all up to you."

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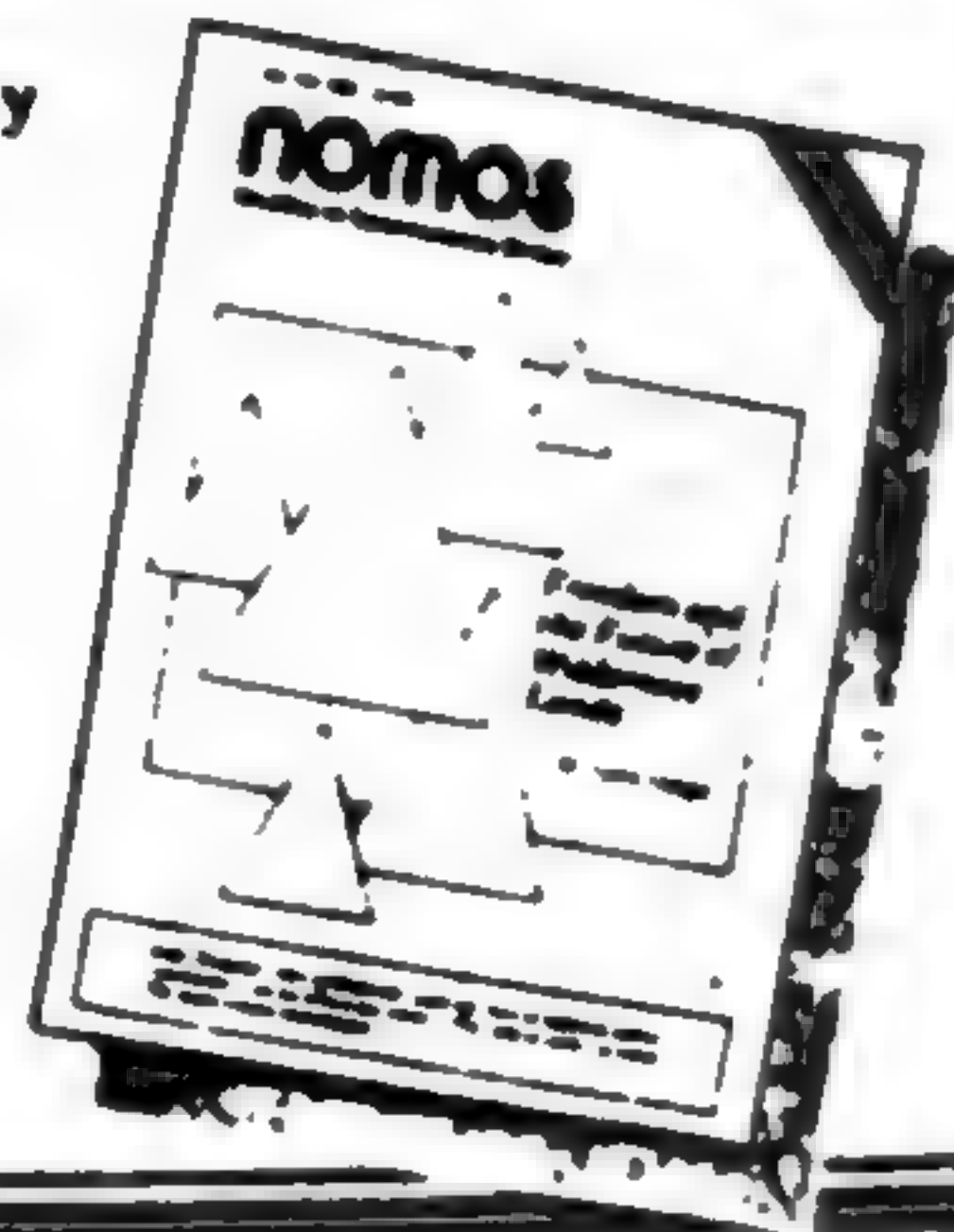
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NOTES OF A NEON GRINGO

by Perry Wendell Thornley

Various theories -- all conflicting -- are advanced to account for the continuing use of cant language in politics. There are those who say it is necessary to advance Marxism -- although such imperialists as Ferdinand Marcos speak it. There are others who say it is required to PREVENT a Marxist dictatorship, although many Marxists also speak it.

I think it is just to make things so complicated that only old men will understand enough about what is going on to exercise effective power.

It is part of a complex maze protecting the establishment, discussed by Gross in FRIENDLY FASCISM. You have to be over 50 and have to've been obsessed with politics all your adult life to be competent enough in its use -- together with similar "right hip pocket" games -- to accomplish anything significant in politics, thus explaining why the so-called revolutionary governments -- like Russia and China -- are ruled by people well past retirement age. And of course, for the most part, only males are going to sacrifice their whole lives to the study of power acquisition. So the whole convoluted mess is, I think, just a protective strategy for preserving the status quo in terms of dominance by the old and by males.

Brother-in-Law always emphasized that it was CRIMINALS who were into cant. Although my definition of crime has changed over the years, I think that much is true -- only the anti-social have to hide their words and actions from the great majority.

If you are opposed to landlordism and authoritarianism in general, then your only enemies are to be found among the landlords and the political tyrants and their friends, who comprise less than 10% of the world's population. In that case it is to your advantage for everyone to understand you, because the majority will support you against the minority of pigs.

The political alliance between the Communist Anarchists and the Authoritarian Right -- in which my family is implicated, also called "The City" and linked with the Morgan fortune and the World-Wide Church of God and possibly The Hoover Institution -- very much resembles the composition of the SS under Himmler in terms of the range of views represented. This is also the conspiracy connected with "feet" -- coercive bosses in the workplace whose power is derived via heart attacks and parental extortion -- who are theoretically expropriators of capital. This conspiracy has, time and again, been accused of racism -- the hard hat mentality of the reactionary members of the working class in canted communication with the most reactionary gold standard conservatives -- a conspiracy created at least in part by Richard Nixon when he discovered the CIA would approve projects without reading them at the time he was in charge of anti-Castro projects under Eisenhower. This movement, called "The Apple" or "Cheese" or "The City" or "Family" is pure National Socialist crap and doesn't merit being deemed revolutionary. They are a contingency program to protect the JFK assassins and the Viet Nam war criminals, though most of them, I would guess, are ignorant of the illegitimate origins of their own movement. They are also -- like the World-Wide Church of God -- predisposed to deal with dissent by means of harassment instead of facts and logic.

We are being given what looks at first like numerous choices. All these options are roads leading to the same destination, however: rascism and fascism. The only argument is whether fascism shall receive the most emphasis or whether, instead, rascism shall be given first priority. There is no anarchist movement within the intelligence community. There is no revolutionary movement. There is no honestly populist movement. There is no truly libertarian movement. These movements need to be created outside of and against the existing ersatz options being handed us.

**Get tough, Jane.
Get along, Jack.
Get sharp, Jill.
Get a step on, Joe.**



BOOKS

I want to emphasize here that "BOOKS" is a pretty broad category -- in fact, I wish someone would think of an alternative name for this department. The distinction I'm making is that these are not periodical items, but rather one-time only publications. As such, there are chapbooks and pamphlets here, as well as more legitimate books. Clear?

A.A. Attanasio. BEASTMARKS (\$13.95 from Mark Ziesing, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): One of a series of private editions put out by my favorite SF bookseller. Attanasio is an enigmatic author, interested in playing with the edges of dream, reality and hallucination until they fray and begin to intermix. 3 stories in this collection particularly stand out, though for different reasons: "Sherlock Holmes and Basho" is an amusing tale of east-meets-west as seen through the eyes of a haiku poet and a master detective. This one is too playful to have any deep points, although they may be there nonetheless.

"The Last Dragon Master" is the tale of a man in ancient China who becomes disgruntled with everyday life, with mighty deeds, and with the Tao itself before finding a meaning to live in the most unlikely form of an ancient dragon. The philosophy flies thick and fast in this one, but it doesn't get in the way of the well-crafted prose. There is a feeling here of being part of an enormous tapestry, carefully woven to encompass both the story and the reader.

The last story in the collection, "The Answerer of Dreams", is perhaps the most experimental. On one level it is set in the far future and deals with the ultimate transformations of the human race. On another, though, the author himself keeps inserting parenthetical asides to the reader, breaking down the bounds accepted for polite fictional behaviour. Somehow it all comes together in the end, with both the story form and the plot being transformed by their interaction.

Attanasio does not strike me as the sort of writer who is ever going to become a major force in the field. His stories are simply not accessible enough. But he will build up quite a following of prose lovers and those disenchanted with everyday reality if he can maintain this standard of writing.

Russ Avery, NO (9x12 SASE with 73 cents postage from PO Box 13201, Gainesville, FL 32604): Russ is one of the people behind NO WORRIES magazine, and this is a small collection of his poetry. He's definitely a poet of the modern world, concerned with PCP and automobiles and guns and donuts rather than blue skies and butterflies. Most of this stuff is pretty downbeat -- one gets the sense, overall, of being part of a screaming technological juggernaut on its way downhill to some very noisy and permanent end. The most powerful poem here is "What Happened After I Stopped Burning", a tale of high school drug use run amok. (16 pp spiral-bound)

John Bennett (ed.), A GOOD DAY TO DIE (\$5 from Vagabond Press, #1 Morris Way, Ellensburg, WAA 98826): This is an anthology of art, stories, poetry and "Polemics, essays and harangues", loosely honoring Gerry Reith in death as he was never honored in life. For the most part this stuff is pretty bleak, dealing with the breakdown in humanity that is happening all around us even as we write. The essays range from a couple that Gerry himself wrote to a look at the mainline press coverage of Nicaragua to thoughts on the publishing business and the way it keeps original writers from being successful. A bitter bunch of stuff. (120 pages 8 1/2 x 7)

Rev. Dr. Onan Canobite, THE SUBGENIUS SCARY WEEKEND (\$1 from PO Box 23061, Knoxville, TN 37933): A report on the festivities in Dallas last October, when a batch of the Church Elders got together to party and plot. In other words, it was a typical SubGenius Devival, a weekend of metaprogramming for the assembled mutants. The Good Dr. Canobite was in on much of the behind-the-scenes maneuvering, and he gives a good feel for the tone of the weekend, together with an invaluable listing of the rare SubGenial music played at the Scary Ball itself. (10 page pamphlet)

Doug Connell, LA CROSSE TIME TRIP 1886 and LA CROSSE TIME TRIP 1936 (\$1 each from PO Box 2372, La Crosse, WI 54601): Part of a series of historical pamphlets on La Crosse. Doug gathers material from old city directories, microfilmed newspapers, and other sources, and uses it to create a small diary for each year he works on. I find the 1886 version to be the most interesting: it is difficult to realize that the country has changed so much

in 100 years. Newspapers had a much more personal attitude towards covering the news, and stories of domestic squabbles and public drunkenness that would draw instant lawsuits these days were apparently common. I wish someone would take on the job of doing this sort of research for other cities and towns and other eras. (32 page pamphlets)
.....

Garry De Young, QUEST FOR JUSTICE (\$6 from Box 75, Rte. 1, Spencer, IA 51301-7252): Thinking back to Lysander Spooner's INSTEAD OF A BOOK, this ought to be subtitled INSTEAD OF A BRIEF, as it is a recounting of the history of Garry's legal problems as he submitted them to the US District Court (I don't know for sure what the court's response to this unusual filing was, but I doubt that it was sympathetic). Not at all dry or tedious, this book instead hops around from topic to topic, drawing together many threads of the author's life and his fight for basic rights.

Some of this stuff, particularly the questions about the Federal Reserve, will strike the average reader as nutbar stuff. Other parts will strike the lawyer as nutbar but perhaps make the average reader think -- what's wrong with the golden rule, why are they cutting down that tree, what's wrong with those banks anyhow? De Young may perhaps be pardoned for the hope that the court would be similarly affected; by the end of this book it is difficult to see what other choices he had.

In the end this is a paradoxical work. We cannot help but admire the crusading fighter's spirit, the refusal to accept injustice displayed in the long list of wrongs. On the other hand, it is frightening to think that one could end up in the position of having no recourse despite obvious grievances. (82 page paperback).
.....



Yael Ruth Dragwyla, MY KIND OF PEOPLE! (\$17 from PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): Yael has turned out a lot of very funny stuff, and a good selection of it is available in this collection. (Being a writer of varied talents, she's also put out poetry, magickal works and SubGenial stuff as well, but let's stick to one thing at a time, OK?) Subtitled "Tales of the Miller's Son: A Travelogue of Ano Vista, The Greater Goliightly Valley Area and Points Beyond: (An Assortment of Vignettes)", this book is a collection of observations of the folks that live in Southern Califlornia, as told by ex-hippie and odd person Pedd Tchlevska. I don't know whether the "Miller's Son" reference is to THE CANTERBURY TALES or to Joe Miller, but either explanation is plausible for this rambling but amusing collection.

MY KIND OF PEOPLE! is available in sections, each being one chapter of the final work; as they are all independent stories, let me mention just a few of the best. Between stories on finds other bits of off-the-wall humor: "IBM 360/69 Features and Options" (\$0.90) lists all the instructions you never find in the usual computer manual, while "Plants of Ano Vista" (\$0.40) warns the non-native about the dangerous foliage to be found in the area.

"The Night the Ghost Got In -- Anyway" (\$3.00) is one of my favorite selections. Take the average humbug seance one can find in any university town, and then throw in a real, er, -dead appearance by Vlad The Impaler, and one is quickly rolling on the floor in gales of laughter. Vlad gives a few old ladies -- and a couple of mischevious but surprised students -- a seance they'll never forget.

"The Doom That Came to Sarnath...and Points West" (\$5.30) is an oddball Lovecraft pastiche, putting one of the usual extraterrestrial horrors into a setting containing hippie bank robbers, science fiction fans, and the President of the United States. Seeing Lovecraft's antiquarian sensibilities hauled kicking and screaming into the 1960's is well worth the price of admission.

And finally, "UFOs -- Explained" (\$0.60) contains what I, as an ex-Caltech student, find to be a perfectly reasonable explanation indeed, one which stretches to cover everything from the Bermuda Triangle to the vision of Ezekiel. I wonder whether this is only being published as fiction to throw us off our guard?

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Give a few of the vignettes from MY KIND OF PEOPLE!. Don't expect any plot to run throughout the entire book. Just look for the sort of amusement that is often generated by anthropological reports on other primitive tribes. Maybe you'll end up writing off for the rest of the book.
.....

FKBBSHOWAPS, "pamphlet No. 2" (75 cents from 45 Newburgh St., Elmont, N.Y. 11003): Created by the tireless Rev. Bartilucci, this is a blatant attempt by the SubGenii to poison the minds of America's youth. If you've never seen the word of Dobbs then just thank GOD you're safe from this debilitating stuff. It grows hair on the palms of your hands. It makes you think you can fly and walk in front of cars without getting hurt. Children under the influence of the SubGenius have been committing seppuku at a rate TEN TIMES that normal in the population. So just stay away from this stuff. The world isn't going to end in 1998. Lee Oswald shot John Kennedy. There is NO Conspiracy. Trust me. (12 page pamphlet)
.....

Fred Foldvary, NATURAL RIGHTS (\$2.50 from The Gutenberg Press, PO Box 9875, Berkeley, CA 94709): Fred is a libertarian philosopher who has done extensive research in the area of natural moral law or, as he calls it, the "universal ethic". This booklet is a bare-bones summary of his ideas on what is inherently right and wrong by the very structure of the universe. Starting with a few simple premises he attempts to derive a universal ethic, a touchstone for guiding all our actions. Since he's a libertarian, it's no surprise that he comes up with the basic libertarian idea of avoiding coercive harm as one of his key principles.

Overall, I remain unconvinced. Too much seems to be built here on a foundation which seems unstable to me. But I'm not prepared to present extensive philosophical arguments. Rather, I will leave the field of battle to Fred and his current critics, many of whom can be found in THE CONNECTION (see ZINES section) if you care to pursue the matter further. (32 page pamphlet)
.....

M. Harry, THE COMPUTER UNDERGROUND (\$14.95 + \$2 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368): This is, purely and simply, a manual of computer crime. Let's qualify that by saying that it applies only to the amateur hacker, phone phreaks, system crashers and the like -- you won't learn how to steal ten million dollars from your employer's payroll here. But you will learn a lot about stealing phone service and other potential ways of getting in deep, deep trouble.

The book proper is only about 50 pages long, covering the basics of computer operations and security, with some basic explanations of how that security can be broken. The real gold here is in the appendices, taken from various underground publications and computer bulletin board services (BBS's) where the hacker hang out. These deal with blue boxing, fooling the phone company, making a lineman's headset for yourself (and thus being able to steal phone service at any junction box) and other areas of phone phreaking. Then they move into hacking proper, with notes on various operating systems and computers. Migrating around the various computer networks is also covered in this section. Finally a list of useful phone numbers and other references is presented.

This is a fast-changing field, and no doubt some of the information in this book was outdated before it hit the stands. But the basic principles of hacking still hold, and you can get a good feel for the war between the security consultants and the amateurs by reading this volume. If you want to, it supplies enough hints and contacts to get you started hacking yourself -- but I don't want to know about it if you do. (280 page trade paperback)
.....

Angus MacKenzie, SABOTAGING THE DISSIDENT PRESS (\$1.95 from Center for Investigative Reporting, 54 Mint St., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103): Angus used to run an underground paper back in the bad old days until police harassment drove him out of business. Some time later, armed with the Freedom of Information Act, he set out to find whodunit. While he still doesn't know who was out to get him specifically, he's found a whole lot of dirt on the US government's control of the underground press.

This book is a series of reprints from various magazines. "Sabotaging the Dissident Press" tells the story of the CIA's OPERATION CHAOS, aimed at destroying the anti-war papers in the late sixties. "When Auditors Turn Editors" reveals the way the IRS uses its powers of determining who is and is not a tax-deductible entity to prevent publication of controversial political articles in magazines like MOTHER JONES. "Darker Cloaks, Longer Daggers" discusses the new law that makes it a crime to reveal the name of a US spy. And finally, "Covering Up Domestic Spying" reports on CIA efforts to get their "operational files" freed from FOIA reporting requirements.

The battle isn't over yet. The CIR is tax-deductible (so far!), and your money will go in part towards paying \$20,000 worth of copying and search charges demanded by the CIA before they'll release the rest of the story. (32 page 8 1-2 by 11 booklet).

REALITIES LIBRARY (\$2 from 2645 Monterey Hwy. #76, San Jose, CA 95111-3129) is going to be publishing a series of books, mainly of current poetry but perhaps including fiction. The \$2 membership fee entitles one to roughly half off the cover price of all future issues, which ought to be a good deal if you've liked the poetry previously published in REALITIES magazine.

Dave Reissig, TRANSCOSMIC PUDDING (\$1 from Hitheryon House, PO Box 452, Syracuse, NY 13201): Dave says, "The way I usually write is to let my mind wander and write down the stronger thoughts that occur to me. Then some can be developed or linked together. This is my twelfth one dollar booklet. Like many of the others, it's partly autobiographical, partly political, and partly intellectual." One can look at this booklet as another collection of aphorisms and oddball thoughts in the series, or as part of a longer book being issued in installments. Either way it is passing strange. In this one Dave seems to be letting a little more out than usual -- a fairly coherent account of part of his persecution in 1965, a few pages of thoughts on sex, and a full-out frontal attack on organized religion. In between there are the usual jokes, letters to the editor, and plugs for jazz. (28 page pamphlet)

Miriam Sagan, LEAVING THE TEMPLE (Samisdat 171st release; Box 129, Richford, VT 05476; SASE for catalog) and AEGEAN DOORWAY (\$3.95 from Zephyr Press, 13 Robinson St., Somerville, MA 02145): A pair of chapbooks from an intriguing poet. LEAVING THE TEMPLE is a collection of poems of travel and transfiguration, with the standout piece being "Some Autobiographies. The Blue Americas," in which a dream of flying blends effortlessly into adolescent longings and then the reality of surgery. A very strong and moving poem. (18 page pamphlet)

In AEGEAN DOORWAY one of the strong unifying themes is Zen: "Zazen organizes events around itself/like opening or closing a green umbrella" reads one poem, and indeed many of these contain a listing of events organized around some hidden core. Sagan's writing is clear and direct, describing the ordinary in loving terms, or, to quote from the title poem "These objects, significant, set perfectly in place/Touched everywhere by air and the clear light". After too many poems of death and doom in too many other collections, this one is a refreshing quiet place to spend some time. (44 page perfect bound)

Eunice Minette Schuster, NATIVE AMERICAN ANARCHISM (\$9.95 & \$2 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368): Originally published in 1932 as part of the Smith College Studies in History series, this book is not concerned with the people who we today think of as Native Americans. Rather, this is a historical study of the anarcho-individualists in America, people like Josiah Warren, Benjamin Tucker and Lysander Spooner. Although Schuster is not particularly sympathetic, she is not overly hostile either, and this is at least an attempt to present a look at a curious chapter of American history at a time when such thought was decidedly unpopular. The book ends with an analysis of why anarchism never won any support in the USA. Fortunately, things do not seem quite so bleak for the movement any more; although small, we remain active and have not yet been stamped out. A good reference to some philosophical roots of many readers to this magazine.

3 pamphlets on Ireland from the Spooner Society:
 REVOLUTION, by Lysander Spooner (\$1);
 NO STATIST SOLUTIONS, by Michael Ziesing (\$3);
 IRELAND: A BELEAGUERED PERSONAL STATEMENT, by "Anarchist.Belfast." (50 cents);

(All three available from Lysander Spooner Society, PO Box 433, Willimantic, CT 06226): The Spooners are an anarchist group with ties to modern Irish revolutionaries and a strong interest in events over there, these three pamphlets present the Irish situations in various lights.

The first is a reprint of an 1880 letter from Lysander Spooner in response to a proposal by an English landlord to drive excess Irish from the country by starvation. In it Spooner maintains that all land titles are defective, being based originally on conquest, and calls bluntly for revolution, not only in Ireland but also in England and the rest of the British Empire. It is somewhat sobering to see that the problems in Ireland

extend back well over 100 years. (12 page pamphlet)

Subtitled "Anarchism and 'the troubles' in Northern Ireland", Ziesing's pamphlet has two sections: an essay on Michael's own travels in the area and extensive selections from OUTTA CONTROL, an anarchist monthly published in Belfast. This one brings home the fact that it's people we're dealing with here, not abstract ideologies, and it's people who are being hurt. Although the anarchists have no more solutions than anyone else, their analyses are often deeper. (50 page pamphlet)

The final contribution here is from an anonymous anarcho-feminist. She starts out with some Irish history, looking first at the roots of the conflict deep in history and then at the more immediate situation. From this she attempts to derive some hope for the future, calling for an end to partition, the removal of the British army, and above all, open discussion of the problems in the area. It's not an optimistic pamphlet but a realistic one, with only a small glimmer of hope on the horizon. (8 pp. pamphlet)

W. R. Tish, ORDER AND CHAOS, NOTHING AT ALL (\$5.95 or SASE for sample from Say When Press, PO Box 942, Greenbelt, MD 20770): Fiction and poetry, humor and philosophy, and a whole bunch of unanswered questions fill up this intriguing collection. Starting off with a section titled ORDER, Tish explores the universe, passing through CHAOS to NOTHING AT ALL and then, just as the collapsing universe re-explodes from the Big Bang, ending up with AFTER ALL.

The ORDER section is quite obviously the product of an enquiring mind. Take the tag poem to an essay about life:

"For the life of me,
I can't remember my birth
or forget my death."

The poet can't stop thinking, revving the mental wheels over and over again, trying to find out the truth about all the big topics like Love and God and Sleep and Pizza.

In CHAOS, things relax a little. The bulk of this section is taken up by two short stories, one being a satirical look at our economy (I think) and the other a harrowing chronicle of a teenaged drinking party run amok. After this brief interlude comes NOTHING AT ALL, an area of rarified philosophy far disconnected from the everyday world. Words about words, thoughts about thoughts dominate this section.

AFTER ALL provides a capstone for the book and a possible teaser to the next, ending with a few tentative thoughts about what we might be able to hang on to for the next turn of the wheel.

Overall, I found this stuff enjoyable. Unlike some 'pro' philosophers, Tish gives more questions than answers. Better yet, he does not lose sight of the fact that thought itself is an artform, and that conclusions may have more impact as poetry than as theorems. (128 pages trade paperback)

EVERYDAY BOOKS and MICHAEL ZIESING BOOKSELLER (catalog SASE from PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): These two fine folks share a catalog and a PO Box. Alison Meyers (proprietor of EB) sells feminist literature while Mike concentrates on anarchist stuff. Their selection is wide, the prices are good, and they stock fanzines, calendars and other ephemera as well as books. Give 'em a try.

MARK ZIESING BOOKS is also at the same PO Box, but Mark sells mostly science fiction, including private press editions of his own. New books at a reasonable price, used ones down to half a buck, and occasional collector's items. Mark is a neat guy, his catalogs are fun to read, and he likes FF. Buy your SF from him.

Norman Schreiber (135 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238) announces the publication of THE SCOUTING PARTY INDEX OF INDEPENDENT RECORD LABELS, with information on nearly 225 independent music labels. Copies may be ordered for \$5 postpaid.

THE TORCH, by Tom Biracree (Jove pb 1983): Vietnam vet cracks and starts burning down all of New York. Ho-hum. (*)

THE ELVIS MURDERS, by Art Bourgeois (Charter pb 1985): The mystery isn't all that mysterious, but the protagonists are a pair of hilariously satirical magazine writers turned bodyguard. Watch for this one. (****)

THE SONORA MUTATION, by Albert J. Elias (Avon pb 1976): One cop sets out to stop the killer heroin being smuggled in from Mexico. He doesn't succeed soon enough to save this book. (0)

THE FOURTH PROTOCOL, by Frederick Forsyth (Bantam pb 1985): The protocol is about suitcase nukes, and so is the book. Sort of DAY OF THE JACKAL with the whole of England playing Charles de Gaulle. (****)

FLYING FINISH, by Dick Francis (Pocket pb 1975): The archetypical Francis novel, featuring horses, airplanes and flying. Unfortunately the ending drags a bit too much for me. (** 1/2 *)

THE SECRET GENERATIONS, by John Gardner (Putnam's hc 1985): Gardner's Bond is an abomination, but fortunately this is a novel following the destiny of the Railton family and the fledgling British Secret Services they help create. A good historical novel. (****)

THE IMMORTALIST, by Alan Harrington (Random House hc 1969): It looked like the conquest of death could be just around the corner when this was written. It still looks that way, but I'm beginning to wonder about that. (****)

EXOCET, by Jack Higgins (Signet pb 1983): Love and intrigue entangled during the Falklands war. Higgins does this better than anyone. A premiere thriller plot combined with impeccable characterization. (*****)

30 FOR A HARRY, by Richard Hoyt (Penguin pb 1984): An excellent crime novel with a newspaper background, from someone who knows the field. John Denson is an entertainingly-different soft-boiled sleuth. (****)

THE SPY NEXT DOOR, by Lawrence Sanders (Charter pb 1985): Fictionalized account of the life of a KGB mole in the US. If reality is half this well plotted I'd be surprised. (*** 1/2 *)

GOLD COAST, by Elmore Leonard (Bantam pb 1985): Cal Maguire gets tangled in a net of Florida mob morals and barely escapes with his life, let alone his libido. A great ending twist on a throwaway book. (****)

NO DEADLY DRUG, by John D. MacDonald (Fawcett pb 1985): Reprint of the 1968 edition, this is the story of the Carl Coppolino murder trial, one of F. Lee Bailey's big cases. Interesting but sometimes tedious

BLOOD OATH, by David Morrell (Fawcett pb 1983: I read this a week ago and already I've forgotten the ending. Not much of a recommendation for an alleged adventure novel. (0) retelling, complete with large blocks of testimony. (****)

SLEAZE, by L.A. Morse (Avon pb 1985): Just what the title says, this is the story of Sam Hunter trying to stop a porno magazine from being put out of business. Rude, crude, and great fun. (*****)

THE OLD DICK, by L.A. Morse (Avon pb 1981): Jake Spanner is a detective -- or he was, because he's now 78 years old. This is still a fast-moving and hilarious crime novel. Worth hunting for if you're tired of the average hard-boiled dick. (*****).

GRANDMASTER, by Warren Murphy & Molly Cochran (Pinnacle pb 1984): The Grandmaster is a chess-playing superman created in the Himalayas. Somehow this gets to be a believable premise for a tale of years of intrigue. (****)

SCIMITAR, by Peter Niesewand (Signet pb 1985): A typical spy-vs-spy thriller until the action shifts to Afghanistan, where the author spent a couple of years. The last third of the book makes all the rest worth reading. (****)

OATH OF FEALTY, by Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle (Timescape hc 1981): A curious idea of the evolution of society towards the Hive. N&P almost make it sound attractive, but I don't quite think they succeed. (****)

VALEDICTION, by Robert B. Parker (Dell pb 1985): Spenser leads with his chin but still manages to figure out what's going on with the religious kooks and the heroin dealers, and even gets laid. Part of a rapidly-becoming classic series of PI tales. (****).

CEREMONY, by Robert B. Parker (Dell pb 1983): Purists say you should read these in order but I find them entertaining anyhow. Spenser dives into Boston's Combat Zone but still comes up a winner. (*****)

STEEL TIGER, by Sterling Silliphant (Ballantine pb 1983): A mystery novel written in an intriguing present-tense observational manner. Definitely a successful literary experiment. John Locke is a philosophical mercenary after New Caledonian killers. (*****)

DAY OF WRATH, by Jonathon Valin (Avon pb 1983): Harry Stoner starts off looking for a missing kid and ends up blowing away half a dozen people with a shotgun. Gripping but sometimes unbelievable. (****)

THOR'S HAMMER, by Wynne Whiteford (Ace pb 1985): Whiteford handles the technical side of this hard SF novel with flair, but he needs to learn that characterization is not simply a matter of making some people different sizes and shapes from others. (*** 1/2 *)

THE WIDOW'S SON, by Robert Anton Wilson (Bluejay tpb 1985): Second volume of the Historical Illuminatus Chronicles, this one covers Sigismundo Celine's programming by a couple of secret societies. Wilson at his best. (*****)

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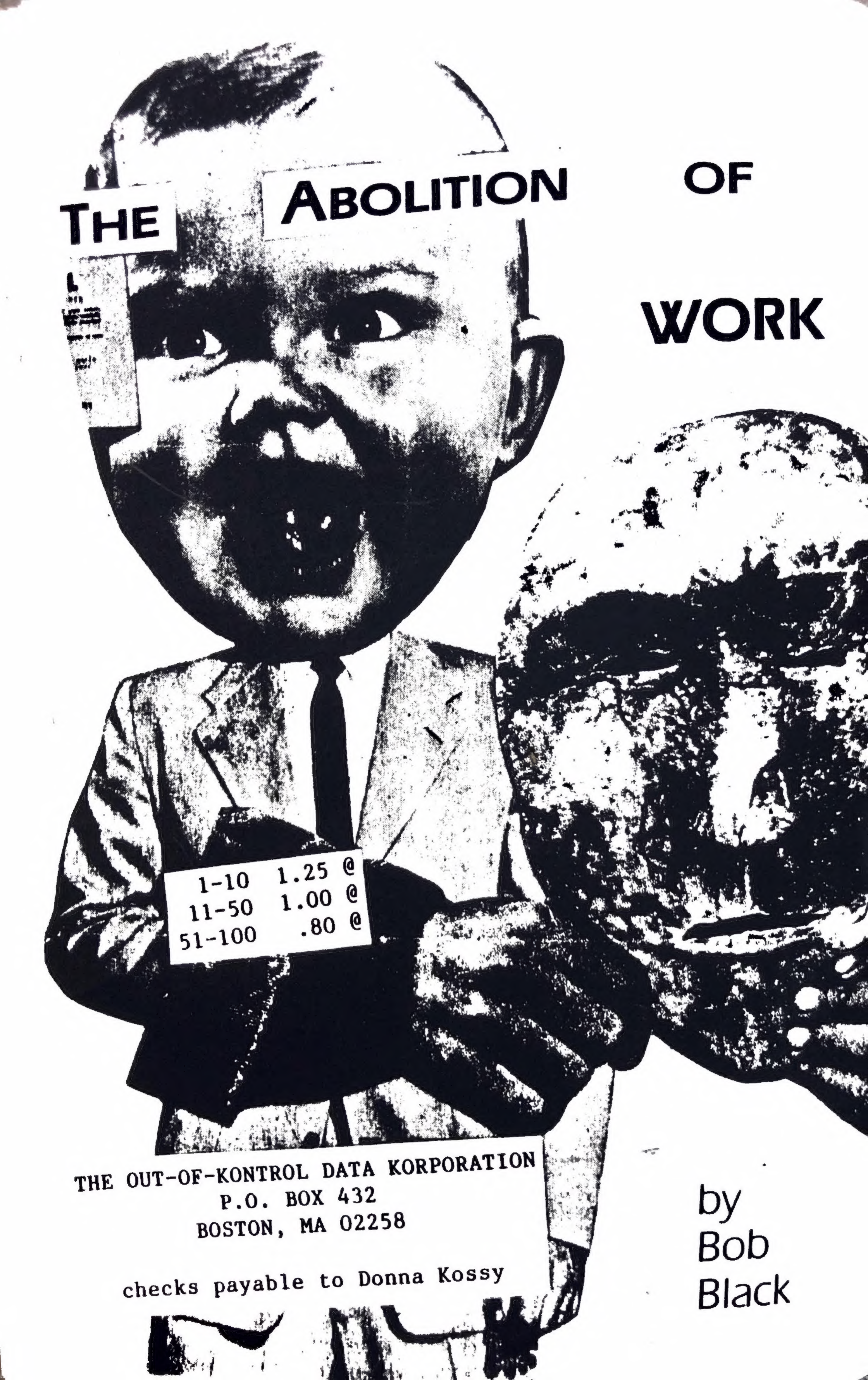
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